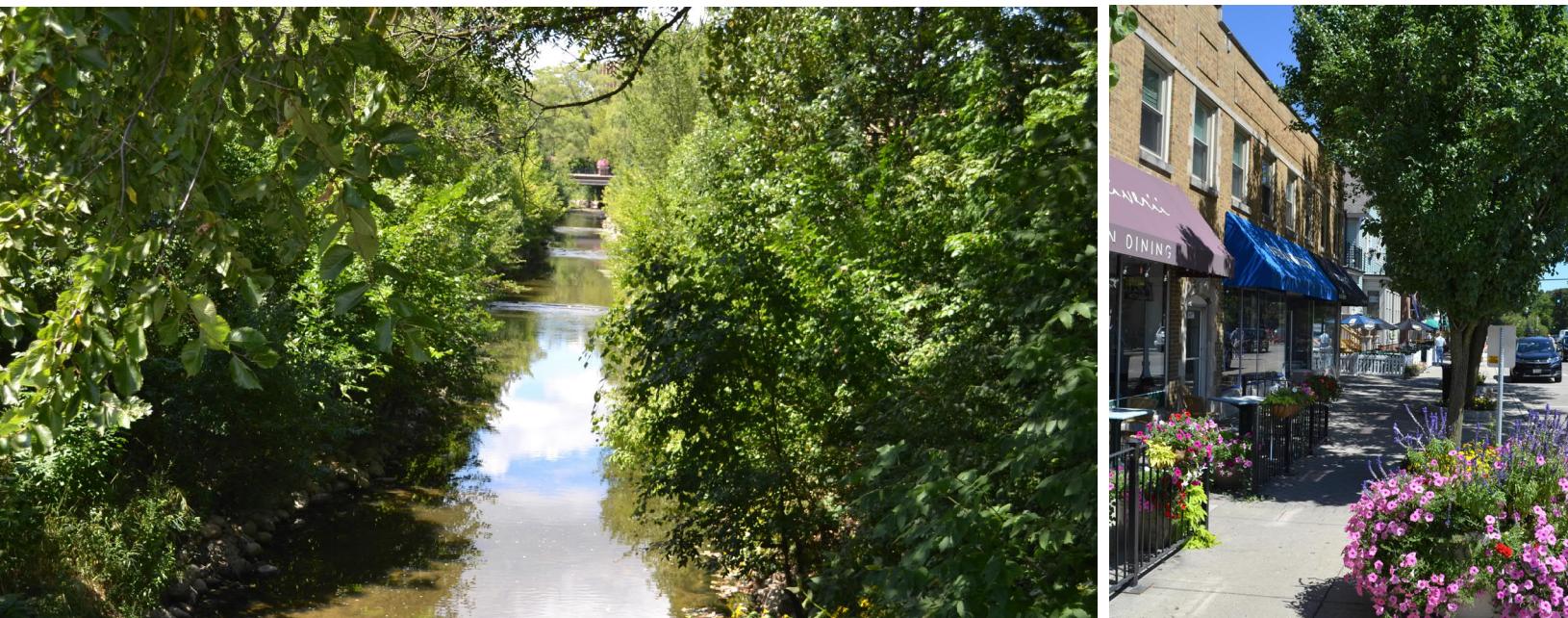


# Village of Northbrook Climate Action Plan



## Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

The Draft Climate Action Plan was made available for review on-line at <https://palebluedot.llc/northbrook-cap-review> . The on-line review site was published on April 29th and was available through June 21st 2021. This webpage provided interactive feedback forms for interested individuals to provide comments, suggestions, and indicate their level of support for the plan. Reviewers could review the entire plan over all, as well as provide review and comment on any of the individual sections.

The following summarizes the reviews received:

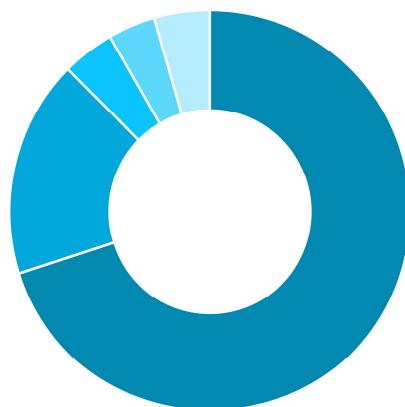
**Total Individual Reviewers:** **96**

### Summary of All Responses

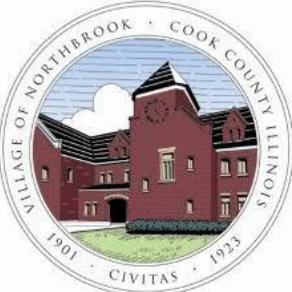
**Total Review Question**

**Responses Received:** **735**

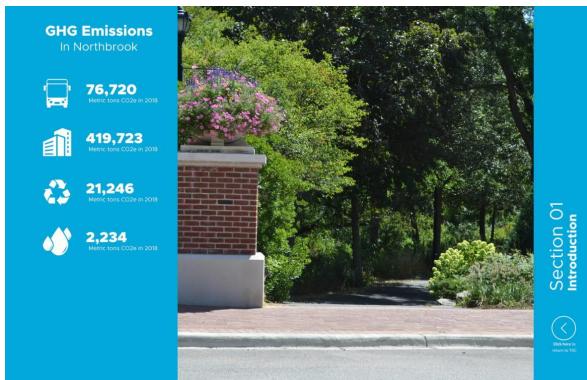
(includes multiple section reviews provided by single individuals)



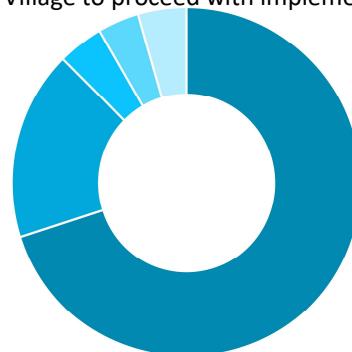
- 70% ■ Agree Completely
- 17% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat
- 4% ■ Neither agree nor disagree
- 4% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat
- 4% ■ Disagree Completely



# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary



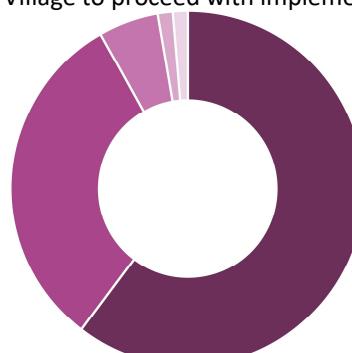
**How much do you agree with the following statement (39 responses):**  
"I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation"?



See Appendix for long-answer responses

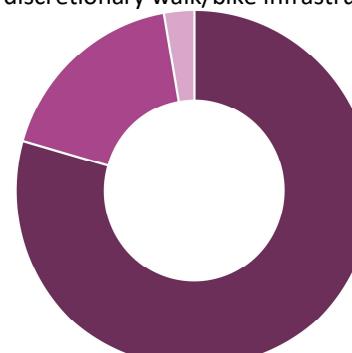


**How much do you agree with the following statement (73 responses):**  
"I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation"?

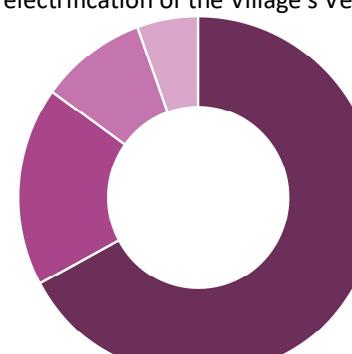


See Appendix for long-answer responses

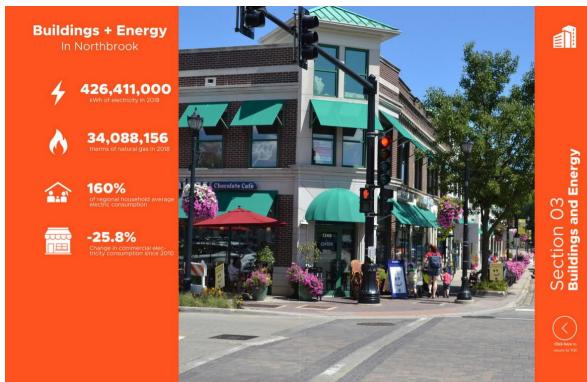
**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (73 responses):**  
Strategy TL 3: Increase walk/bike transportation by 50% and expand discretionary walk/bike infrastructure by 2030?



**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (73 responses):**  
Strategy TL 4: Transition Village fleet to alternative fuels, achieving 50% electrification of the Village's Vehicle and Equipment fleet by 2030?

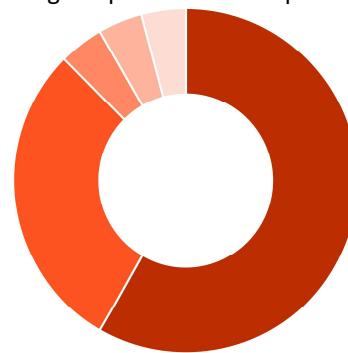


# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary



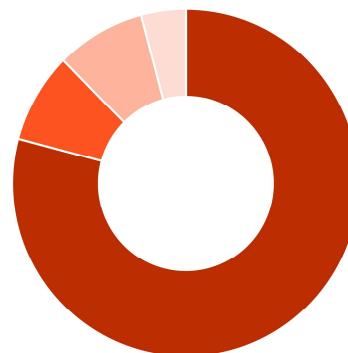
See Appendix for long-answer responses

**How much do you agree with the following statement (24 responses):**  
"I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation"?



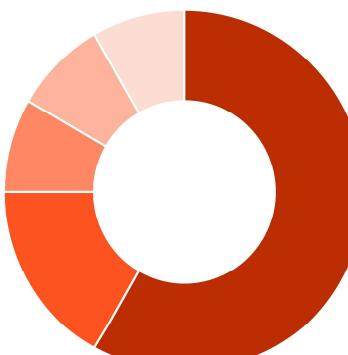
- 58% ■ Agree Completely  
29% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
4% ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
4% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
4% ■ Disagree Completely

**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (24 responses):**  
Strategy BE 1: Increase on-site distributed renewable energy to 10% of Residential and Commercial electric use by 2030?



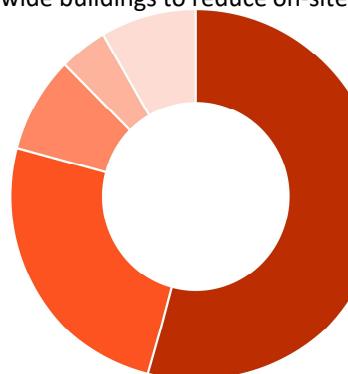
- 79% ■ Agree Completely  
8% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
0% ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
8% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
4% ■ Disagree Completely

**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (24 responses):**  
Strategy BE 2: Improve Renewable Energy Policy and Incentives?



- 58% ■ Agree Completely  
17% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
8% ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
8% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
8% ■ Disagree Completely

**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (24 responses):**  
Strategy BE 7: Achieve 2% natural gas "fuel switching" in community wide buildings to reduce on-site fossil fuel use by 2030?

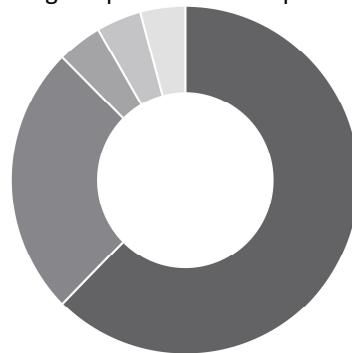


- 54% ■ Agree Completely  
25% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
8% ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
4% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
8% ■ Disagree Completely

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary



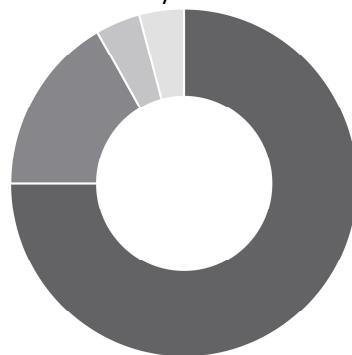
**How much do you agree with the following statement (24 responses):**  
"I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation"?



- 63%** ■ Agree Completely  
**25%** ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
**4%** ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
**4%** ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
**4%** ■ Disagree Completely

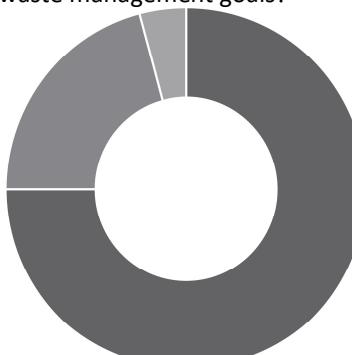
See Appendix for long-answer responses

**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (24 responses):**  
Strategy WM 2: Increase landfill waste diversion from its current rate of ~29% to 50% by 2030?



- 75%** ■ Agree Completely  
**17%** ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
**0%** ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
**4%** ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
**4%** ■ Disagree Completely

**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (24 responses):**  
Strategy WM 5: Educate, engage, and empower the public to meet waste management goals?



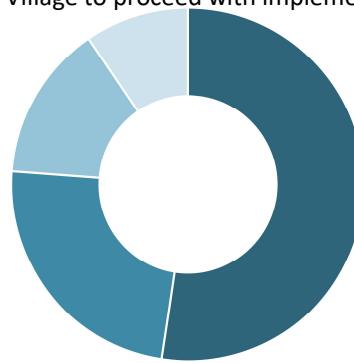
- 75%** ■ Agree Completely  
**21%** ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
**4%** ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
**0%** ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
**0%** ■ Disagree Completely

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary



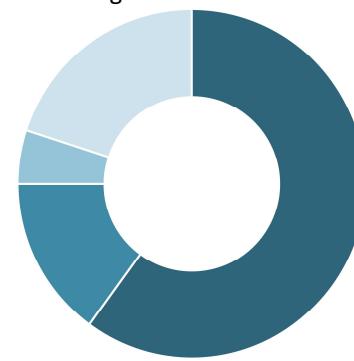
See Appendix for long-answer responses

**How much do you agree with the following statement (21 responses):**  
"I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation"?



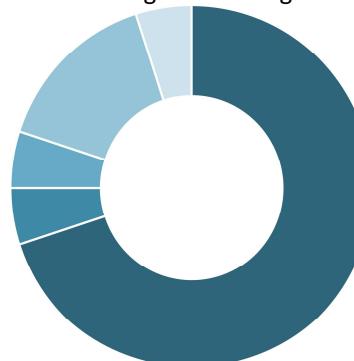
- 52% ■ Agree Completely
- 24% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat
- 0% ■ Neither agree nor disagree
- 14% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat
- 10% ■ Disagree Completely

**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (20 responses):**  
Strategy WW 1: Promote increased water conservation Village Wide with a targeted reduction of 7.5% by 2030?



- 60% ■ Agree Completely
- 15% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat
- 0% ■ Neither agree nor disagree
- 5% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat
- 20% ■ Disagree Completely

**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (20 responses):**  
Strategy WW 3: Update design standards and plans to meet projected climate change flood mitigation requirements?

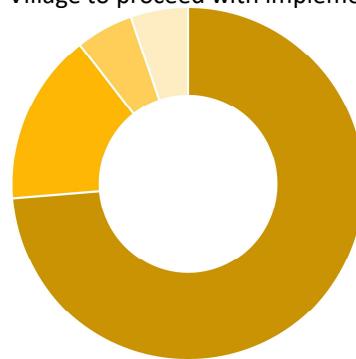


- 70% ■ Agree Completely
- 5% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat
- 5% ■ Neither agree nor disagree
- 15% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat
- 5% ■ Disagree Completely

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

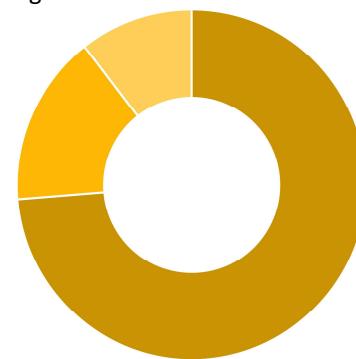


**How much do you agree with the following statement (19 responses):**  
"I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation"?

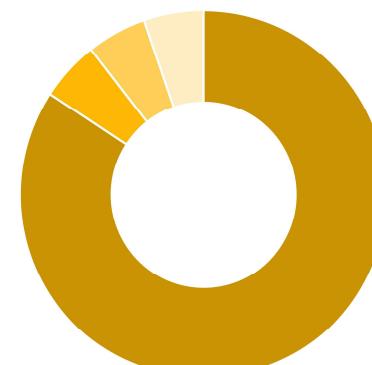


See Appendix for long-answer responses

**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (19 responses):**  
Strategy LF 2: Increase access and interconnect all community gardening?



**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (19 responses):**  
Strategy LF 3: Reduce food waste and hunger?

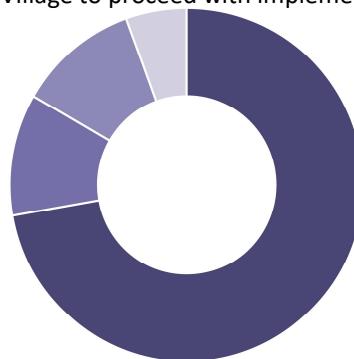


# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary



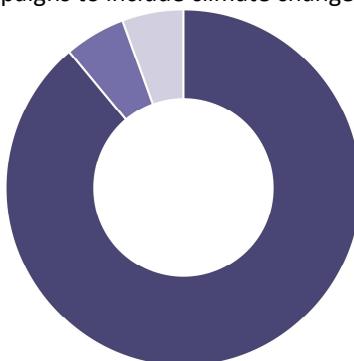
See Appendix for long-answer responses

**How much do you agree with the following statement (18 responses):**  
"I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation"



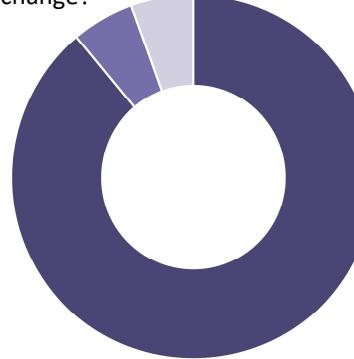
- 72% ■ Agree Completely
- 11% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat
- 11% ■ Neither agree nor disagree
- 0% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat
- 6% ■ Disagree Completely

**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (18 responses):**  
Strategy HS 1: Establish and expand public health communication campaigns to include climate change impacts?



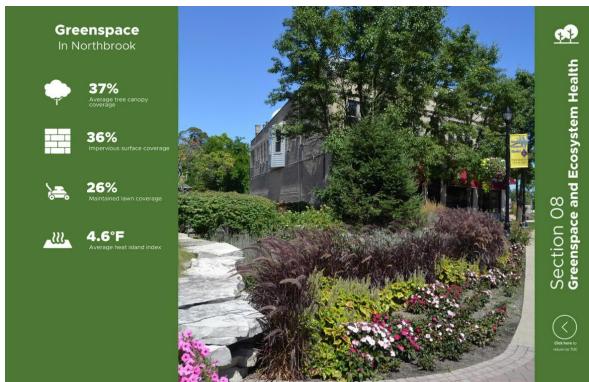
- 89% ■ Agree Completely
- 6% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat
- 0% ■ Neither agree nor disagree
- 0% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat
- 6% ■ Disagree Completely

**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (18 responses):**  
Strategy HS 5: Address the air quality risks associated with climate change?



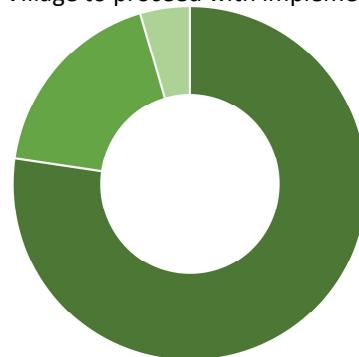
- 89% ■ Agree Completely
- 6% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat
- 0% ■ Neither agree nor disagree
- 0% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat
- 6% ■ Disagree Completely

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary



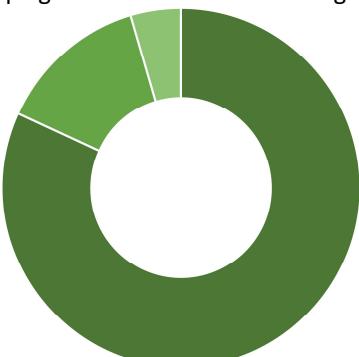
See Appendix for long-answer responses

**How much do you agree with the following statement** (22 responses):  
"I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation"?



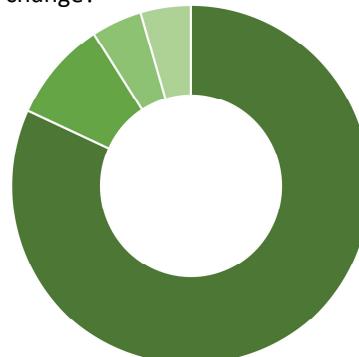
- 77% ■ Agree Completely  
18% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
0% ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
5% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
0% ■ Disagree Completely

**How much do you agree with the following strategy:** (22 responses):  
Strategy HS 1: Establish and expand public health communication campaigns to include climate change impacts?



- 82% ■ Agree Completely  
14% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
5% ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
0% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
0% ■ Disagree Completely

**How much do you agree with the following strategy:** (22 responses):  
Strategy HS 5: Address the air quality risks associated with climate change?



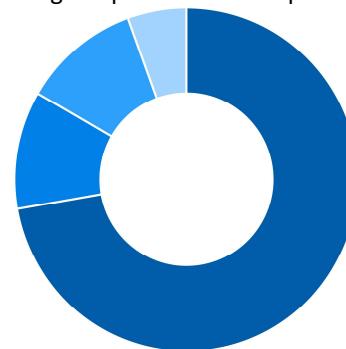
- 82% ■ Agree Completely  
9% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
5% ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
5% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
0% ■ Disagree Completely

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary



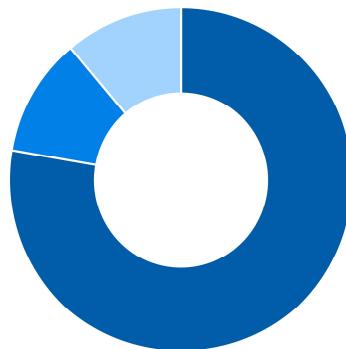
See Appendix for long-answer responses

**How much do you agree with the following statement (18 responses):**  
"I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation"?



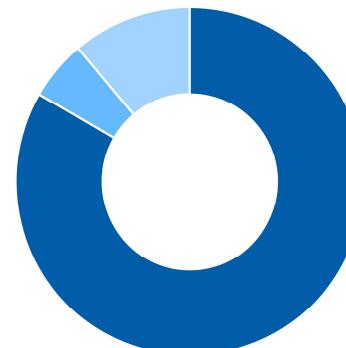
- 72% ■ Agree Completely  
11% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
11% ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
0% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
6% ■ Disagree Completely

**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (18 responses):**  
Strategy CE 2: Increase workforce development for the climate economy?



- 78% ■ Agree Completely  
11% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
0% ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
0% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
11% ■ Disagree Completely

**How much do you agree with the following strategy: (18 responses):**  
Strategy CE 4: Financing The Village's climate action implementation?

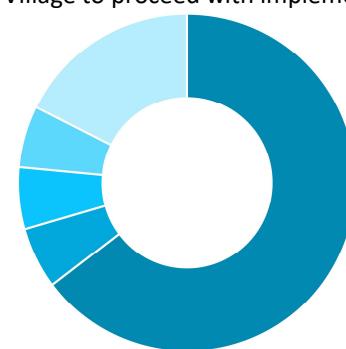


- 83% ■ Agree Completely  
0% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
0% ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
6% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
11% ■ Disagree Completely



See Appendix for long-answer responses

**How much do you agree with the following statement (17 responses):**  
"I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation"?



- 65% ■ Agree Completely  
6% ■ Agree Mostly/Somewhat  
6% ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
6% ■ Disagree Mostly/Somewhat  
18% ■ Disagree Completely

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses [Introduction](#)



**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous statement? ("I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation")**

this whole idea is a total display of feel good ignorance

so many more important things needing urgent care

While I agree we need to care for the planet and its environment I do not agree with the Paris Climate accord at all since it does not concern itself with the biggest polluters-China and India. I think people in general are doing their best to keep our planet clean without governmental influence/mandates.

Northbrook should not be viewed in isolation. The rationale for so many climate models (over 40) is that none fit the data well. Plant more trees is obvious. Affordable housing is being misused. Northbrook taxes are the major economic strain and that is what you must address. Your consultants have preconceived notions.

If this is an example of where this village is going ,I'm depressed.

Do you want trees ?Do you want growth?and fresh air and you cut down an entire area by the post office .It's looks like crap. Where did those animals go ?what happened to the trees ?and the things that were there.

How about Northbrook Court ,what a disaster that is. what's the matter with you ,what was wrong with the shopping center why couldn't you have revitalized it and do something a little more interesting ,instead of tearing it down to make more apartments That haven't been done and would just add Congestion to Lake Cook Rd

What happened to the Grainger building on Shermer Road ,that's now an empty building.

What was the harebrained idea to change the train station when it couldn't be done .why don't you figure that out before you started it.

If you think this is the way to run a village you are all totally crazy.

we should be open to ALL colors, races and people

I think we are....

**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous statement? ("I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation") (continued)**

I think we are.... (response continued)

Do you even have any idea how many languages are spoken in our schools

you should ask a teacher there are over 50 languages spoken in our schools

we have diversity

I've been in this town for 45 years and there's nothing wrong with the town the way it is.

I think if you're smart you'll take care of the problems we have like roads,

without making more problems we don't need.

The only good thing I've seen lately is the Techny Prairie activity Center

Maybe the park district should run the village they seem to be doing a good job.

Thank you for your time I appreciate you listening to me and I know I am not the only one Northbrook resident that feels this way.

Darlene McAbee

Promoting "telework"? If people do not need to ever leave their homes you accomplish two goals - destroy businesses and community by ending all relationships. I do not want to live behind a computer screen. This plan is a failure. Try again.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses [Introduction](#)

### What aspects of this section are you most in support of?

The idea that working together, residents of Northbrook can have an impact on decreasing the damaging affects of GHG's.

all

none, zero, nada

none

May 2, 2021

Northbrook Climate Action Plan – Public Review

### General Comments:

Northbrook has two unique features that I do not feel were adequately treated in the Draft.

First, Northbrook is not a "seaside town" but does lie less than 5 miles from Lake Michigan, the 4th largest fresh water lake in the world. The effect of this fortunate situation on moderating Northbrook's climate extremes was not adequately addressed in the draft, as there was a great deal of information on Ames, IA but not on Northbrook.

Second, nuclear power was given inadequate treatment. Illinois is unique in that only 23% of its electric power comes from fossil fuel [nuclear, 66%; coal, 14%; renewables, 11%; and natural gas, 9%].

The percentage numbers that apply to Northbrook should be in

Making people aware of ways to reduce polluting our planet

I submitted a document through the file upload feature.

The visions to be the first community of this kind is a great goal to have coming out of the pandemic. I think we'll find that most of these things are very realistic to scale because of the dramatic changes we have seen within the transportation and employment sectors. I think that we should focus on strategies WM 3 and 4 (diversion of organics from landfills / increased recycling rate). I am a current high school student in the Academy of International Studies, a combined program offered at both GBS and GBN, and I'm disturbed by the absence of recycling that occurs in both of these high schools. Neither of them truly have a recycling program in place. I think a way to combat this is to invest in more bins. Germany implements a system where they stratify their waste so that it can be better handled (either to be reused or properly disposed of). They have a bio-bin for food waste, as well as a glass bin, an electronics bin, etc. I realize that the implementation of such an elaborate bin separating system will be pricey, but I think, as a constituent, that this is a realistic and scalable system (proven effective!) that would be a good investment into.

reducing GHG

### What aspects of this section are you most in support of?

(continued)

I am in most support of the section to decreasing carbon output by 80 percent.

Overall I found the case for climate action clearly stated and supported by reasonable data.

I support the village of Northbrook in moving forward, and doing their part to combat climate change

the fact that there trying to help the environment.

Overall I feel like this is an idea that could help a lot. Some of the stragies I feel as if many people will not agree with. Like... increasing public transportation, I think some people will argue the reason of COVID or them just wanting to drive themselves and get there when they want to get there not when there is a time available for public trasnportation. I think many people with agree with the alternative cars that don't need fuel. Many automotive places are coming out with cars that don't need fuel which is a big help on the air polution and other things.

I am in most support of the climate action vision to help reduce climate change. i support this because it will cause a positive change in the climate to preserve the earth. i support the decrease of vehicle mileage, increase on site distributed energy to 10%, decrease solid waste by 5% and promoting water conservation

Green space.

Greenspace

Greenspace

all

Waste diversion, increased recycling, protected greenspace (wetlands, etc.) strengthening climate economy

increasing tree cover, pollinator sources, but I think it should be a greater % for any viable effect

I am in favor of making a better Northbrook ,improving the village in a positive way encouraging stores to come back to Northbrook and restaurants

I would've liked to have seen vaccinations for coronavirus given sooner to everyone in Northbrook

It was wrong that we had to try to get the vaccinations from other places and had a terrible time doing it  
the village should've organize that and done a better job.

I stopped early after reading the telework part.

Northbrook has a plan to address the climate challenge.

Reducing global warming

Renewable energy use and new village facilities being built for net zero.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses [Introduction](#)

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**

(continued)

---

The commitment to lower GHG emissions locally in accord with Paris Climate accords

---

All of the above, but I would particularly like to address transportation as a priority.

---

While the entire introduction is clear and on-point with data-driven goals and bodes well for a sustainable future, I particularly appreciated Northbrook's Climate Future chart as a graphic wake up call.

---

Everything. I am happy that the Village has put a plan together to combat climate change.

---

This report must not gather dust on a shelf. We must have every single Village department, every single Village commission, involved in its implementation. A committee should be established with membership including the library, the Park District, all the school districts, including PTOs and students, the YMCA, the Cook County Forest Preserve, the Northfield Township Road District, GGN, the garden club, the GBN environmental club, the League of Women Voters, the Climate Lobby and Reality Project, the Sierra Club, and the Chamber of Commerce. Our sustainability coordinator should report directly to the Village manager. This should be treated like the crisis that it is.

---

Reducing landfill but the goal is not sufficient

---

All

---

The entire mission.

---

The entire plan.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Transportation and Land Use**



**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous statement? ("I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation")**

How do you decrease miles traveled and mandate that? Do the police not patrol as much? Great for the crime we already have?! Encourage bike use—that works great trying to get downtown Chicago....

You have no way to control or reduce this. It sounds nice but unrealistic.

Your socialistic, big government policy is sounding loud and clear and I don't agree with it.

I think the village should focus more on improving the safety of our sidewalks and streets for walkers and bikers. They would benefit not only from the daily commutes for workers, but for school commutes and weekend activities/ shopping. We have major streets throughout a Northbrook, but lack safe and maintained sidewalks. For instance there are stretches of no sidewalks and not maintained sidewalks along lake cool road, Skokie blvd and Waukegan road. This makes it dangerous for individuals and families to walk or bike to the Botanic Gardens, Skokie Lagoons, Skokie blvd shopping, Deerfield mall, downtown Northbrook, Meadowhill park, the train, etc. We also lack bike racks throughout the city, which deter biking. I think people will naturally shift to electric vehicles, so I do not think the village needs to create incentives for this to occur. I also think the change in fleet should be phased over time. It would be equally wasteful to the environment to change out a fleet before it is needed, so vehicles should retire after as they get older.

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**

---

Strategies numeric goals

I think that it is wonderful that you are examining this and I support many of the plans. Encouraging awareness and suggesting actions in our population is a positive. Our trains are super. We don't have enough bus options to get us to the trains and many of us can't take trains downtown because we can't walk from the train to the street where the taxis are. The goal to move to so many electric vehicles by 2030 is unrealistic. Those vehicles don't always meet the goals of our population. We have many seniors who use rolling walkers or scooters who need other types of vehicles. I would keep it as a goal but NOT implement penalties by 2030.

Thanks for listening. Keep up the planning for the future.

---

reducing carbon emissions

---

all

---

TL 4, TL5, TL 7

---

supporting electric or hybrid vehicles, increase bike safety

Make the patrol and firetrucks more electric if that is feasible but you still have to charge the vehicles somehow and since we don't have nuclear power plants you are now using coal produced electricity thereby defeating your effort.

Also we have stopped fracking which gives us natural gas which is the cleanest fuel to burn and has helped to reduce our carbon output. Of course Biden stopped that.

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replacement of fleet vehicles

Providing e bikes and scooters to the public is such a great way because it's such a fun way to help reduce carbon and provide an effective way to travel.

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Encourage bicycle and walking

The goals seem to address the minimum need and have substantial chance of being exceeded.

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Reduce miles traveled alone

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Transportation and Land Use**

### What aspects of this section are you most in support of?

(Continued)

I agree with the part that it is talking about the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation.

I agree with the part that is talking about the intent and goals of the section and encourages the village to proceed with implementation

Giving people more options as to where they want to live and work, as well as how they decide to use transportation.

Bike lanes

Bike path

Reducing emissions

Bike trails that connect the side of northbrook court mall to down town northbrook

Bike path to connect Williamsburg to downtown safely

All of it

All of it. The bike path connecting Williamsburg Square neighborhood to downtown Northbrook.

bike path

Adding bike paths around town, especially for those that live far away from the downtown area of town.

Build bike paths to connect North Northbrook to downtown over 94 spur

All of it!

Bike paths

Ability to get from Williamsburg square to the rest of Northbrook on foot or bike safely

I am most in support of increasing the ability to bike and walk. We have major streets throughout a Northbrook, but lack safe and maintained sidewalks. For instance there are stretches of no sidewalks and not maintained sidewalks along lake cool road, Skokie blvd and Waukegan road.

Strategy TL 3-3

Bike path from Williamsburg to downtown northbrook

All of them especially building bike path from Lee Road to downtown Northbrook

### What aspects of this section are you most in support of?

(Continued)

Having a bike/pedestrian path connecting the Williamsburg neighborhood to the other side of the spur, connecting the neighborhood to Dundee road

Bike Path

Bike path from Lee Road to downtown Northbrook to reduce emissions.

Getting a bike path to downtown Northbrook

Expanding bike paths that connect northbrook

Increase bike transportation

Bike bath from Williamsburg Square to downtown Northbrook

Creating additional bike paths, connecting bike paths to the branches east of 94 and west of 294. Connecting the north end of Northbrook to the rest of the village through bike paths.

Improving traffic. Create a bridge Fiore bikers from Williamsburg Square neighborhood over spur

Bike path from Williamsburg square to downtown NB

Connecting Northbrook with bike and walking trails

Bike paths

Biking paths, reduce carbon footprint

Increasing walk/bike transportation

Bike path from lee rd to connect to downtown northbrook

I am in support of an overpass that connects Lee Road in the Williamsburg Square neighborhood to the north side of Dundee road.

Decrease emissions

Easier access to downtown Northbrook

all

additional bike paths

Support for EV, public transportation

EV Charging stations, increased bike lanes and public transit

Bike paths to access other areas of Northbrook

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Transportation and Land Use**

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**

(Continued)

Building more densely around public transit, upzoning, allowing construction of additional dwelling units, incentivizing infill, reducing parking minimums, increased public transit options, lower emission vehicles

All of the ideals/goals

Overall I support, but it is a VERY WEEK plan that is progressing with no sense of urgency.

The Village's commitment to improve air quality by supporting tree and deep rooted grassland planting. The Village's commitment to improve walkability and connectivity of pedestrian and bike paths.

Increasing carpooling, increasing public transit use, increase electric car use

reducing GHG with all the incentives and purchases of Ev's.

I support the Village participating in national initiatives like implementing Complete Streets and Vision Zero programs.

transition of village fleet to more energy efficiency, support electric cars, limit gardening equipment emissions

Increased density in downtown. Use of small buses to provide group transportation to events from senior centers and housing complexes. Should add areas that are closed off to vehicles. More use of shuttle services.

EV charging stations, affordable housing, banning gas powered leaf blowers

Bike use

Creating safe pedestrian footpaths/sidewalks on all streets (and bike routes), and EV readiness

TL6 and TL7

Increasing biking/walking and transit use; focus on "safe schools"

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Buildings and Energy**



**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous statement? ("I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation")**

this is ignorance

Once again people who would like to go solar are doing so on their own cause they have the money to do so. They also have their swimming pools in their backyards and have sprinkler systems in their lawns which seems to me to be going against the goal of saving electricity and water.

Again another high cost/low impact policy

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**

having the village buildings and lights achieve a lot more energy efficiency, educating the population about alternatives, and encouraging people to use them.

none

encouraging use of renewable energy and discouraging fossil fuels

Make village buildings more energy efficient but I'm sure that already been done.

This is the place with the greatest potential for progress with both technology and community interest available to support somewhat modest goals.

Solar panels

Making energy and water more easily accessible.

all

Community solar facilities

I want more of a focus on collective actions vs. individual, BUT I think that monetary rewards/discounts for individual sustainable energy use are a great idea. Would like to see higher rewards for businesses that invest in green energy solutions, have LEED certified buildings, etc.

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**  
(Continued)

Very well thought out and reasonable; I think some of this is "costly to the average homeowner" and/or we know about some of these initiatives (energy efficient appliances and windows, as example). It's nice to see that the Solar Talk is coming to Zoom via the Library and Go Green. I'd be curious how "allergies" play into the statistics of energy consumption and too, I think society as a whole has become a fairly wasteful consumer -- many folks can't live w/out any discomfort regarding AC or the heat turned on. Engage schools/children to educate, incentivize, etc as presumably, larger households consume more energy. Plus kids are great motivators of change!

Increasing solar and energy efficiency on all public buildings

Making all village buildings energy efficient and all new buildings LEED

There is nothing in the plan to support the residents of NBK that will need to front the taxes for all these programs. Find ways to incentivize for residents not penalize. A new home comes with a huge permit review fees and then county taxes penalizes you for improving the property you own. Your own report states that new properties are typically 15% more sustainable than house built before the 80's. Yet when you build new your taxes go from \$9,000 a year to \$25K a year and you still have the same number of kids in the house but you increase the square footage by 1000 sqft. The property is still the same size, it is all backwards and the system is broken. How about if you put on solar, county & Village drops its taxes by \$1000 for ten years to help you cover the CapEx? OR allow neighbors to form microgrids using solar, batteries and even mini wind towers (OMG it might have wind flicker). Incentives to install an insinkerator and have it verified by the village should save you on taxes say \$500 a year. Send the organics right down the drain, no trucks, NOx, road wear and tear, no CH4 anaerobic worry, no pathogen potential from improper composting, it heads directly to the POTW where they are most certainly producing power from the CH4 they generate there, and if they aren't they should move to hydrogen production from the biogas clean up.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Buildings and Energy**

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**  
(Continued)

Expanded solar and renewable energy initiatives

measures the village can take on their properties, equity measures, top 60's approach

BE-6 seems most important of several worthy goals

Making older homes more energy-efficient through modifications, solar, etc.

eliminate fossil fuel in our energy supply

Increased use of solar, solar installations on new homes, visibility of solar projects

energy efficiency incentives

BE-1, BE-3, BE-7, BE-8 and BE-9

**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous strategy? (Strategy BE 1: Increase on-site distributed renewable energy to 10% of Residential and Commercial electric use by 2030)**

unrealistic percent change in 9 years. With implementation in new building and restorations, we can change things. Requiring residents to use one sort of energy or retrofit their homes is poor policy. It costs 10's of thousands of dollars to change things in many homes.

again this is ignorance on steroids

Who pays for it?

**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous strategy? (Strategy BE 2: Improve Renewable Energy Policy and Incentives)**

ignorance

More should be required. Just requiring an assessment will not accomplish much.

Once again you're making a requirement that increases cost thereby decreasing development in Northbrook and costing the taxpayer money by reducing our tax base. Don't do things that will increase my taxes!!!

Again government is demanding the assessment be done by the resident or building owner. The Village government should do it for them (the resident) why should they (the resident) have to expend more resources (time & money) than they already have to live in this town. The Village should say here is the result if you do this we will give you a rebate of \$5000 or 10 years of reduced taxes for \$1000 a year. I do not believe mandating and codifying requirements makes anything easier, it just excludes more and more people that can't afford to do it but more would engage if the program was set up in a better fashion a carrot vs a stick.

**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous strategy? (Strategy BE 7: Achieve 2% natural gas "fuel switching" in community wide residential, commercial, and industrial buildings to reduce on-site fossil fuel use by 2030.)**

this is getting extremely repetitive

How do you do that? Going solar at a high cost!! Again if you don't have the money especially small business hit hard by covid how does the business pay for it? Not good.

Fuel switching... this isn't a strategy it is an economical decision. Electric will be cheaper if there is enough electrical generation available. The CapEx for the equipment will be X and the annual costs Y. IF natural gas is cheaper why would you switch? Simply adding to our taxes to cover the "switch" isn't a solution, its a tax. How does this make it better for the resident in Northbrook? How can Northbrook businesses or residents participate in "Fuel Switching", like a groupon? OR like rainbarrels, you want one let us know and we can use our bulk order power to lower the cost of entry. What is the Village doing to help the residents not just met the 2040 GHG goal?

**Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?**

yes, shelf this whole idea. it's a total waste of money and display of ignorance

There should be incentives and disincentives regarding renewable energy.

none

I was disappointed to see little or no positions that cite wind or geothermal opportunities (except for green energy purchases). There should be a specific commitment to demonstrate a variety of green technologies to inform and encourage the community to act. For example, there should be an evaluation of whether a geothermal installation at the Village Hall campus would produce adequate benefits for the village hall, library and municipal garage (and maybe even Greenbriar School). If the national landmark Dawes House in Evanston can be successfully converted to geothermal, it seems likely the payback could be substantial.

Community wind energy production; require solar on all new construction; subsidize installation of solar on existing multi-family building

Would like the Northbrook community to work with local grocery stores to address refrigerant pollution and work to find sustainable solutions together for these local businesses. We don't have ANY grocery stores in Northbrook that are HFC-free in our area.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Buildings and Energy**

### Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?

(Continued)

Educate us more on some of this - what would it look like and what does it mean? Also, hold numerous public forums for education, not just a random zoom or library meet. Make it more of an importance and requirement to learn this stuff. Make this info a priority now ,similarly to how folks come out to learn about lowering our real estate taxes.

Since Village utilities are free, I would like us any Village reduction in utility use to be passed on to residents in a measurable way.

I would love to leave my windows open at night in the summertime, but often a smell of skunk causes me to shut all my windows and then turn on the air conditioning. We must address the skunk problem in northbrook.

There are probably many solutions that haven't been discussed.

An example let the business at the strip mall at dundee and Pfingsten form a micro-grid with their residential neighbors.

Put Solar Canopy's over parking lots in the Village that reduce the residences power bills directly.

(Maybe better for the water use section )Let residential neighbors store rooftop storm-water from neighboring commercial properties on their properties for irrigation water supplementing.

We need more education on the options. For example, there is an existing program with solar that doesn't put solar panels on homeowners property — the language explaining that program is very vague and there has been feedback on social media sites saying people don't understand what it is. I don't understand how it works and I'm very interested in the program — more easily accessed information in very simple language is needed to help people understand the benefits.

Have some sort of "certification" program that rates/promotes the energy efficiency of homes for sale to incentivize energy efficiency. Get volunteer cohort groups (ie, owners of homes built in the 50's (or by decade) to work together over an extended period of time with experts in improving the energy efficiency of their homes--community members supporting each other with support from the village. Support establishing a "model" of efficiency in each neighborhood that can be used as a showcase; support retaining housing (rather than demolition and rebuilding); Encourage library group or Go Green to have a 30 day challenge where participants consider/try improvements to save energy

### Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?

(Continued)

I'd love to see more public and private certified green buildings, with the Village setting an example, and a webpage acknowledging the effort. That should include a refresh of the Green Building ordinance. The ACC could assist since its already been discussed. Commercial/Industrial buildings appear to need further study to incentivize energy-efficiency improvements by tenant and/or owner.

Zoning changes that promote home-sharing. Energy use to support a household of one or two (the size of many Northbrook households) is not that different from the energy use to support a household of 5 or 6, allowing people to have many social benefits, possibly live close to their jobs, and to reduce impact on the environment.

The reason I didn't agree totally is because I want ALL residents and businesses to switch to renewable energy, now. Don't make it a choice.

1. People are motivated by financial incentives - reduce the RE tax levy on solar powered homes.
2. Reduce the use of wasteful tumble driers and provide rotary style laundry lines for installation on a patio or in a yard (similar to the program that provides water butts and composters to the community at a competitive rate). Tumble drying clothes causes great cost to the environment. Line drying laundry is very efficient for 9 months of the year (in all but freezing weather). Think of the energy that is wasted on this by every household.

I'm not sure if grants to help lower or middle income residents was addressed, but we need to make energy efficiency available to everyone. PACENation has a program that the Village should tap into.

In BE-9 and "What you can do" sections, please consider adding information on more energy efficient home water heaters (water heaters contribute 20% to residential energy spending). To consider replacing natural gas hot water tanks with European style tankless water heaters. Also, to consider electric induction cook tops which also reduce home consumption of natural gas and are even more energy efficient than regular electric stoves.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Buildings and Energy**

### What other feedback do you have to share on this section?

All new development should involve requiring renewable energy.

none

Codes need to be reviewed to determine if they obstruct wind energy production (I think they do). Wind turbines might be encouraged along the Tollway Spur and on village owned property at the west end of Techny road.

The Com Ed franchise should be renegotiated to encourage energy efficiency at the Public Works Center (PWC). I understand the electrically heated building still receives free power under the agreement. That arrangement discourages efficiency investment and conservation operating practices.

The village has facilities which may be able to support large solar arrays either to generate offsetting power to the grid or to be included in a community solar program. The PWC and the Water plant are obvious sites. The Park District and school districts also have such potential. The business case for such investments is likely to work as these building assets are unlikely to be subject to sale or change of use indefinitely.

While BE 1-1 may incorporate these suggestions, it would be helpful to give examples of the prime sites and maybe less obvious ones like the Northbrook Historical Museum which is tied into an expensive electrical heating system and well sited for a solar roof installation. That building will certainly be around long enough to recover costs.

BE 1-2 seems a very modest goal which might be prudent.

BE 1-4 would be better if it included top geothermal and wind generation locations as well. If you want to timely exploit that potential, why not make it a phase 1 goal?

BE 2-1 seems a good idea but needs to be designed so as not to significantly delay permit issuance. Northbrook already enjoys(?) a reputation for lengthy review processes.

BE 2-3 anticipates an increased commitment to proactive lobbying. Village Manager candidates should demonstrate capacity to meet that need.

BE 3 should include a regular green energy column in the village newsletter and other regular outlets like channel 17. If the Chamber Board meetings still include a village representative, a climate action report should be given each month. School districts should be asked to help with curriculum supporting programs that advance the climate action agenda.

### What other feedback do you have to share on this section?

(Continued)

All new development should involve requiring renewable energy.

none

(Response continued)

BE 5-1 is an excellent goal and the results of the investment should help prove the viability of the climate agenda.

BE 5-2 is an excellent goal that should include replacing property maintenance equipment that relies on fossil fuels.

BE 6 is an excellent set of goals. It should include either a village or regional goal to revise energy franchise agreements to incorporate energy efficiency and service delivery priorities.

BE 7 is good but needs a specific commitment to include geothermal assessments and, where it works, investments. This should include possible public/private partnerships.

BE 4, 8 & 9 are well done as written.

Want an HFC free grocery store please!

Increased building fees for non-green building. reductions in fees for green building

Ask the question what can the Village do to help its residents and business with costs that achieve reductions in GHG's not just what can the Village spend to get lower GHG production. This entire analysis is done in a silo and needs to be looked at from the residents and business owners perspective not just the Village facilities and generation needs.

People who stay at home (are retired or work from home) may use more energy in their home than those who are away all day, but it can still be a net gain if they are not commuting. I'm not sure how you figure that into the equation

Any rezoning or housing development application should include a green development questionnaire or checklist (what's green about your project).

The Village should be providing resources to older adults who want to age in their homes -- to help them make modifications that will promote more efficient use of resources and enable them to age in place. These modifications might involve creating first-floor bedroom/bath, and changes that might allow them to share the house, such as creation of an accessory dwelling unit.

Ensure that there are no bylaws that prevent householders from line drying laundry on appropriately placed laundry clothes line or rotary clothes line.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Buildings and Energy**

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### What other feedback do you have to share on this section?

(Continued)

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I thought this entire section was done quite well. BE-1 is outstanding. I strongly agree with creating a Resource Hub as I believe for our community to become truly engaged in the CAP initiatives, we need to explore effective, hands-on tools for educating the public. BE-4 and BE6-5 were very good. BE9-2 on a Green Building Resource Center as well as a Net Zero Building Guide could be essential tools, resources for engaging the public and truly supporting individual actions.

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<https://www.cleanenergyworks.org/about-pays-for-ee/>

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This is a resource to utilize.

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# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses Waste Management



**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous statement? ("I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation")**

I don't like these requirements being pushed on us. These goals are too aggressive. I agree that education is important. We don't want businesses to be unable to economically offer carry outs. I also question having compost bins all over. I believe it will greatly increase our population of squirrels, skunks, insects and other pests and would not have one on my property.

How do you reduce a household solid waste?? Go down the street and look at all the garbage thrown out? How do you mandate more recycling? We have become a throw away society especially the more well to do in the village. Not an achievable goal.

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**

It is very wordy, so I doubt that there will be much action. I would like to see more recycling opportunities for people who live in condominium buildings that do not recycle. I would like there to be a location where I can take regular household recycling.

education and encouragement

All

increase incentives for refusing and recycling

education

increase organic diversion

We are very supportive of the goals of this section. It really needs to be a close partnership with the Chamber as many of the WM 1 actions can be expected to have a lot of push back. Countywide or statewide adoption will make it easier at the local level.

WM-2 & 3 goals are excellent on first look. Can commingled food waste be effectively composted? It seems to have the potential for neighbor impacts if odor and leakage are not well managed.

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**  
(Continued)

(response continued)

WM 4-2 The waste audits should start with public entities and the Village as #1.

WM 5-3 Many underutilize cul de sac islands have the potential to host small neighborhood composting (and community garden) sites.

WM 5-4 seems ideal for a village/chamber initiative.

Reducing waste and increasing recycling.

compost facilities

Requiring all businesses and residences (including multifamily) to recycle organic waste through composting

Increasing recycling, diverting organics from landfills. Would love compost included as part of a regular recycling program.

I'd also like a bag tax for Northbrook to discourage local businesses from generating plastic film waste, and more facilities offering plastic film recycling.

Increase options for recycling and reduce food waste going to landfills

Increasing the use of curbside composting, and implementing a charge on the single use grocery bags and other single use items.

Phased in plans that stress public education and offer clarity on tasks

Composting

reduce, reuse (repair), recycle

the focus on diverting landfill waste

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses Waste Management

### What aspects of this section are you most in support of? (Continued)

We need to get a waste company that tells the truth in its reporting. The amount of solid waste NB generates is outrageous. We need recycling (including of plastic film) and composting to massively increase, and we need new companies in order to do that.

Education efforts and programs that change the single-use mindset and incentivize people to change their behavior. We need to have lots of recycling and "repair-a-thon" events. Compost bins should be free or low-cost (with payments monthly rather than a big up-front fee for the year). Tool libraries and repair shops should be supported, and the business/industrial community, schools, and other large generators of waste should be required to take steps to address waste.

working with business, less waste from single use products in restaurants

Not sending waste to landfill - more recycling and stronger organics waste management

WM-5 which involves educating, engaging and empowering the public to meet waste management goals.

reducing food waste. The food we waste contributes 4.4 gigaton of CO2 equivalent into the atmosphere each year!

### Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous strategy? (Strategy WM 2: Increase landfill waste diversion from its current rate of ~29% to 50% by 2030.)

once again, I disagree with forced methods of disposing waste.

How do you conduct a waste audit. Come into my house (not to happen!!!) and tell me what I can and cannot keep/throw out/ what to buy and not to buy. Really!!!

### Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?

I would like there to be a location where people can take their household recycling. People who live in condominium buildings need it. I would also like there to be a location where people can dispose of their own bulk items or construction waste.

Village wide fines for businesses issuing single use plastic; composting should be included in village contract for waste removal, not an opt in program

none

I am not certain if the chief administrative officers still meet monthly. They should and progress on the climate action plan should be reported at each meeting. This really applies to the entire plan.

I can't think of anything.

### Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?

(Continued)

More emphasis on compost. Greater support for community composting. Paid free bag and terracycle programs offered at a city level

Have more recycling options, for example the plastic bag collection at the Village Hall last year was great. I'm sorry we can no longer recycle more than plastic grocery bags, I want to be able to put bread bags and saran wrap, etc in my recycling can.

Though styrofoam is important, it's not enough to just focus there. We are years behind on implementing that ban. Single use plastics are more often polluted and as we are situated within a large watershed, we need to reduce plastics used by the community. I would love to see more specific plans for a tax on single use plastics and how and when that will be implemented.

I'd like to see a point person identified that locals and businesses could contact.

I would like to see the village renegotiate the WM contract so that Composting is free, recycling is reduced, but garbage costs are much higher. I would like to financially incentivize residents to recycle and compost and penalize for excess garbage

Verify NBK's actual recycling rate by commodity code #1-7 and assume all contents of recycling container end up recycled.

Please switch composting to a company that can process meat. If you make composting less of a hassle, more people will do it. Making people remember what can/cannot be composted is a barrier - versus a compost facility that can also handle meat, seafood shells, etc.

Offer a compost drop off site/location for people that are concerned about the smell or critters (Grayslake does this). The drop off location would also be useful for things like pizza boxes that are really large and awkwardly shaped. Please offer composting bins during village festivals - like Northbrook days, various park district events, music at the green, etc. Offer tips for composting - including using compostable plastic bags, freezing compost until collection day, etc

It was incredibly convenient to have plastic bag recycling at the village hall. I hope you can bring that back. Advertise the terracycle collection programs at village hall. While I know you hope to move people to reusable bags, there are always going to be certain types of plastic bags we can recycle - like toilet paper / paper towel plastic packaging, etc.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses Waste Management

### Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?

(Continued)

(response continued)

I know you have given out a lot of reusable bags for shopping — maybe do a handout of reusable produce bags — a lot of companies give out reusable shopping bags but produce bags are not as common yet.

I appreciate all the options we have for recycling, but it would be ideal if there was one place we can drop off all recycling. My styrofoam goes to the northfield location, the terracycle products/lightbulbs go to village hall, plastic bags go to the grocery store, etc. One single, self service location would be really helpful and encouraging for residents - they can see exactly what can be recycled and bring more and more back each time they visit.

Potentially investigate incentivizing people to compost with lower waste management fees and offer a free compost waste bin (currently we have to buy our own or rent one from advanced disposal). (Example: You can raise all fees and then credit some back if people also compost).

Your goals are too timid!

The Village should come up with strategies to help neighborhoods promote reductions in solid waste -- sharing and repairing of equipment, neighborhood swaps, collections of donation items, etc. By working with the Library, schools and Park District, the Village should promote the zero-waste concept to all residents.

provide some sort of certification for restaurants that take meaningful steps as an incentive for people to eat there; work with retirement communities, nursing homes and hospitals to figure out ways to reduce their single use waste (a tough one); prevent demolition in the first place (preserve building we already have)

The measures are not ambitious enough. Too much focus on business and not enough on private residents. Some residents are not bothering to recycle or recycle badly - penalize them! Hit them in their pockets.

Virginia banned styrofoam, IL can too. We really need an audit because it is obscene that NB has 3x the landfill contribution per cap than the rest of the county.

### What other feedback do you have to share on this section?

More education to residents on what is recyclable, ie recycling should not be placed in plastic bags in bins

Good section

Want more education on the dangers of single use plastics

Northbrook has an opportunity to be a proactive thought leader, not just a follower, and implementing some form of a plastic ban is a start. We can differentiate ourselves from the other suburbs by taking action on these issues and spearheading change in the area. If you want to look into reusable carryout containers, make them a mandate! The downtown area is well positioned to adopt that sort of system. Actionable steps, not just aspirational plans, are needed in order to actually reduce the town's waste and impact.

How about a simple sticker for my recycle container that outlines what goes inside? Also, we should know what happens to the whole batch when there is contaminated items in our container. That way my family can feel some responsibility for throwing unclean containers in the bin. Also, it's hard understand the difference between plastics. I wish there was a way to help folks to feel proud about conservation with some type of visual on what proper recycling can look like for the future of our community.

Its embarrassing that NBK's per capita of solid waste generated is triple the county average. This seems to warrant explanation. Do we need another R for Refuse to minimize unnecessary purchases? We can't recycle ourselves out of that deficit.

Working for statewide legislation is important because then there can't be the argument that measures somehow put Northbrook at a disadvantage economically by placing unfair burdens on businesses.

1. All trash containers that will be going to a landfill should be clearly marked on the outside of the canister 'LANDFILL' so that we can all be clear on where our trash is going. LANDFILL containers costs per week should be increased significantly, other containers - organics and recycling should be subsidized (using the increased revenue from the LANDFILL folk).
2. Householders should have be able to choose an 'economy' service 'package' for waste collection - for example, smaller LANDFILL canisters collected less frequently, larger organics and recycling collected more frequently at an overall lower cost for the consumer. An economic incentive such as this might encourage reluctant households to think more carefully about how they sort their trash and waste.

Very much in favor of a plan for and a communication campaign around a program of curbside compost collection.

check out Upstream Solutions for communities that committed to 100 reusable containers. There is a cost savings to the restaurants. <https://cutt.ly/0mW1wjj>

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Water and Wastewater**



**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous statement? ("I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation")**

The energy section mentions that new homes are more efficient, even though they are 30% larger, but the wastewater section makes no mention of altering the building codes to prevent these larger structures from increasing the stormwater volume.

Mostly all the yards in Northbrook including most of you on the board have in ground sprinkling system-I do not. Want to decrease the waste of water have everyone tear them out. They sprinkle when it's raining or have just rained and the ground is soaked. What a waste of water!! So you all stop watering your lawns and then you all can decide how to conserve on water!

Thank you for opening this up for public comment. Respectfully, I am a current voter and tax payer of Northbrook.

I am opposed to any and all Village policies which seek to place restrictions or otherwise dictate what happens on private land. Absolutely, need to strike ALL language pertaining to any policies related to home owners and developers of single home residential buildings. However, I would support Village policies that seek to develop and maintain public works, water, and waste water projects with the existing budget and/or through regional, state, and federal infrastructure grant dollars. Such policies and projects should not further increase taxes on private residences, the developers of such properties, or otherwise infringe on individual's constitutional rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Thank you,

Again, this analysis has been completed in a silo of "only" Village facilities, accept for the 20 largest water user (businesses) aspects. Requiring moisture sensors for all landscape plans? Really... how more codified can we make the zoning codes? How about incentivizing... the village will reduce your taxes by \$20,000 for 10 years if you put in a grey water collection tank in your house for exterior irrigation purposes? Or the property owner signs up to allow a water storage basin to be installed below grade in their backyard because they are the low point on the block. This could be rewarded by the Village with a tax

**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous statement? ("I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation")**

(Continued)

(response continued)

break annually like a senior tax exemption. If you pick up a rain barrel from the Village you get a free parking sticker for 5 years? How about organizing bulk drive replacements at reduced rates for those that need or want a new driveway so it is more permeable? Or creating a tax incentive that reduces your taxes to cover the higher difference in cost to achieve that type of driveway. If you pour a concrete driveway vs asphalt you get a \$5000 credit over 5 years (because of the "white" roof effect to reduce the heat island effect?) A tree purchase program that would cover say the cost of installation by the Village with the purchase of a drought tolerant tree for the property, or a reduction on MWRD fees or covered fees by the village for 5 years?

I don't believe that The Village should dictate what. up private homeowner can and can not do on their own property.

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**

all

reducing use; increase natural sequestration of storm water

none

Conservation and preservation

While we generally support goals, strategies and targets there are unaddressed concerns.

all

Flood mitigation, would like more emphasis on assessing pipe infrastructure, lead poisoning and fertilizer contamination

replacing all leaking pipes in our village

None at present.

finding ways to reduce cost for residents and helping control their costs while achieving the GHG reductions and water use reductions. Not just Village spending reductions.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Water and Wastewater**

### What aspects of this section are you most in support of?

I am in support of providing clean water and water conservation without infringing upon residents

#### Strategy WW 1

grey water collection and use by city and business, Blue Spot Flash Flood proposal

Reducing the size of lawns, and reducing water wastage overall, using water permeable surfaces etc

WW-2 mitigate projected increased flood hazard

#### Waste Water Reduction

### Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous strategy? (Strategy WW 1: Promote increased water conservation Village Wide with a targeted reduction of 7.5% by 2030.)

instead of sensors on irrigation system, deter their use; plant natives that don't need to be irrigated; targeted reduction should be greater

The moisture censors don't work. You want the reduction I want every one of your yards on this board to tear out your sprinkler system and us know you did that then you can tell me to conserve water.

Thank you for opening this up for public comment. Respectfully, I am a current voter and tax payer of Northbrook. I am opposed to any and all Village policies which seek to place restrictions or otherwise dictate what happens on private land. Absolutely, need to strike ALL language pertaining to any policies related to home owners and developers of single home residential buildings. However, I would support Village policies that seek to develop and maintain public works, water, and waste water projects with the existing budget and/or through regional, state, and federal infrastructure grant dollars. Such policies and projects should not further increase taxes on private residences, the developers of such properties, or otherwise infringe on individual's constitutional rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Thank you,

When does promoting turn to requiring.... How about the Village gives the meters away when you join a bulk purchase program for a type of tree or plant that you plan to install....???

### Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous strategy? (Strategy WW 3: Update design standards and plans to meet projected climate change flood mitigation requirements.)

Despite newer houses being 30% larger (your stat in section 3) I see nothing that controls the ballooning footprint of these houses that take away permeable surfaces.

Once again costing us money. What would that do. You have to get rid of your yard for a retention pond in your back yard. Where does the swing set go?

Thank you for opening this up for public comment. Respectfully, I am a current voter and tax payer of Northbrook.

I am opposed to any and all Village policies which seek to place restrictions or otherwise dictate what happens on private land. Absolutely, need to strike ALL language pertaining to any policies related to home owners and developers of single home residential buildings. However, I would support Village policies that seek to develop and maintain public works, water, and waste water projects with the existing budget and/or through regional, state, and federal infrastructure grant dollars. Such policies and projects should not further increase taxes on private residences, the developers of such properties, or otherwise infringe on individual's constitutional rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Thank you,

Is this someone in agreement as long as this does not increase property taxes for Northbrook residents. The funding to complete this project has received from government or outside fun but I am totally for it.

### Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?

Revise the building code to REQUIRE roofs that are amenable to solar. Revise the building codes to REQUIRE water retention systems on new construction that are taking away greenspace with the larger structure.

all village property should have native planting which not only contains storm water but cleanses it as well

Improve habitat of North Branch of Chicago River

We found the projected water demand map on page 5-2 questionable. it appears to show negative water demand in southern Arizona although it is a fast growing region that Arizona State University projected would produce water deficits in the near term let alone thirty years out. They are already engaged in reusing agricultural water and are very concerned at depletion of major reservoirs. That leads us to wonder at the accuracy of all the projections.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Water and Wastewater**

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### Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?

(Continued)

(response continued)

We also do not see a commitment to actively monitoring the Great Lakes Initiative and other institutions designed to protect our water supply to assure that adequate allocations remain available to Northbrook as other regions seek new sources.

We also question using national trends to characterize local conditions. Within the corporate limits it may be difficult to make the case that flood risk is an equity issue. The areas identified as disadvantaged lie outside the current and projected future boundaries of the village and are not, to the best of our knowledge, not particularly flood prone. The village has an active Stormwater Management Commission and plan that receives no comment we noticed. It seems like some of the comments are cookie cutter provisions that are not all that relevant. Is this useful?

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This is a good start

Educating public on eco lawns, reducing contamination or our water systems, addressing lead pipe concerns - does it effect Northbrook?

We have to charge a water fee to increase the rate of replacement of water pipes. We did this for storm water and it was a great success, we have to do for the our residential water pipes that are severely outdated

---

Do not implement them.

Stricter engineering controls is dictated by the MWRD and ACOE... how does maintaining your compliance help (aside from reducing flood insurance costs). what other avenues help the homeowner or business reduce water without being huge capex expense to them....

---

I like to see The property taxes lowered add more services provider for the taxes that we are ready pay.

Install water meters in ALL residential and commercial properties to better measure actual use, and identify and address abuse, inefficiencies, or leaks that that require correction. Maybe pay for this by raising water rates village wide above a certain quota.

---

Offer a different color for the rainwater collection tub — one that blends in more easily into home structures or in a more neutral color. Put instructions online on how to install the rainwater collection tub or partner with a handyman/company to offer installation at a discount - it seems difficult to do for many people that are interested. (Discount absorbed by local business in return for volume from the city recommendation/partnership)

---

### Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?

(Continued)

If leaks are such an issue, how about a contest between Northbrook and a similar sized city to see how many leaks we could mitigate in a month--with support from the village.

Regarding landscaping, there needs to be a program of re-education for landscapers who work in the village (similar to the transition from coal to energy efficient fuel) to re-train them about landscaping without grass and how to care for it. Also, there is a bit of a disconnect between "designer" native plants and what would typically grow on our original properties. Engage the Somme Woods restoration folks on this topic or partner with the Forest Preserve--how to restore your property to how it was when indigenous people lived here.

Expand community gardens and offer expertise

Village support of the Farmer's Market

Possibly a library program---bring the fresh food you didn't eat this week and let's turn it into a meal

10 day challenge (possibly a library program again) of no food waste---and people sharing how they did it

Businesses meeting with each other to tackle food waste rather than competing

---

Addressing the water usage of private swimming pools

Increase prairie planting,

Village applying for grants to help low and middle income residents get water efficient and moisture sensors for irrigation plus drought and flood tolerant landscaping.

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### What other feedback do you have to share on this section?

The one-question-at-a-time survey format is bad UX that reduces completion of the form, allowing the government agency in charge to declare "We asked for feedback, we didn't get many replies!"

---

incentives are needed for reducing impervious surfaces, building codes should require more green space

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none

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Thank you to village for doing this study

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I want to see more than flood mitigation, but I think this is a fantastic start

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Come up with a water plan that more aggressively replaces the pipes in Northbrook.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Water and Wastewater**

### **What other feedback do you have to share on this section?**

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Thank you,

What can the Village do to support the reduction in water use for the residents and business owners without mandating new codes or restrictions? How can it be a broader provider and not the gavel?

Water use reduction may be a double-edge sword since NBK also sells its water.

I think the flooding issue is the single issue that you could get the most buy-in from. If you live in a flood prone area, the intense rainstorms feel very threatening.

Also a lot of education on what seems counterintuitive--that there are floods and droughts almost simultaneously.

Amend the village code to allow homeowners to have a more sustainable and less water dependent landscaping such as prairie plants instead of lawns and permitting longer grass length. Having a village code that limits the height of grass on parkways and ditches is not an environmentally friendly policy. There is a level of hypocrisy in having a vast expensive CAP when their are bylaws that do not allow homeowners to adopt environmentally friendly practices of lawn and land management on their property.

Important to have stream, river and wetland protection and restoration. Find ways to invite the public to enjoy these beautiful natural assets.

I appreciate the desire to reduce water, but the Village makes money on selling water. How will that affect revenues?

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Local Food**



**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous statement? ("I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation")**

Reduce food waste and hunger. Not a measurable goal. Again spend our tax dollars on something that is unmeasurable.

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**

encouraging water use reduction, local food purchases

community garden; composting

none

LF 3 and 4 seem most relevant to most of our population. Food insecurity actions in LF1 seem positive although not many students actually walk to school as suggested by LF 1-5. Promoting local food production is admirable but seem better located on school properties. (Note: LF 2 on page 6-3 is incomplete)

Eliminating hunger, Growing own food

locally grown food

community gardening; composting

community farming, providing food to those in need

Increase community garden locations, support our Nbk Farmers Market

Promoting local gardens

LF-1 and LF-4

Local food, supporting local farms

The emphasis on the needy and children.

Encouraging local growing in homeowners' yards, schools, community gardens, community support of our currently all-volunteer Northbrook Farmers Market and Northbrook Community Garden, and all incentives to encourage people to shift toward a plant-based diet, to eat in season, and to grow their own and support local growers. We need to create greater awareness of soil quality and of the harmful effects of industrial agriculture and its impact on human and environmental health.

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**

removing barriers to urban gardening/food raising, pilot project in at a home site (I volunteer mine), Id food insecure

Composting. Food Waste is a major source of GHG's and if we compost effectively, we can reduce them.

ALL aspects of this section are worthy parts of the CAP and reflect current knowledge about the importance of how we grow our food to reduce release of CO2 as well as for resilience of our soil and food production. I will highlight LF-2 because of the value of supporting as much community involvement in gardening/food growing as possible. This helps to teach the next generation -- especially to have community gardening more visible in the Village.

**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous strategy? (Strategy LF 3: Reduce food waste and hunger.)**

People are already donating to food banks who so choose. Once again unmeasurable but you want to spend my tax dollars on.....

**Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?**

composting should be included in waste pick up, not an added fee

Northbrook has a large number of cul de sacs. Many have underutilized islands that could serve as local community gardens and composting sites. It would be helpful to develop a template of actions to promote the effective use of this property. The Park District also has several pocket parks that could incorporate community gardening and/or composting without adversely affecting current uses.

Everything here is so important - let' just get started

Take actions necessary to improve soil quality organically

I would like to see the village promote a harvest meal where residents bring their local produce to share

Focus Local Food education and outreach efforts on the orange and green low income census tracts.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Local Food**

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**Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?**

(Continued)

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Please have a farmers market on a weekend day so families that have to work have the ability to purchase locally grown food.

---

I think the Village should create a home gardening starter kit that includes soil, seeds, tools, material to create a frame, netting and instructions. If we are serious about promoting gardening, we should make it easy for people to get started, and the Village should provide classes and technical assistance. New community gardens could be devoted to people who live in congregant settings. We should ask houses of worship and businesses with large properties to open up a portion to community gardening. We should also develop a kit for starting a native plants/pollinator garden for homeowners.

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Help residents know how to keep and prepare food in an emergency food supply kit

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**What other feedback do you have to share on this section?**

I think the fruit trees to school is a lofty goal but realistically, MANY children will pick and THROW the food and animals will eat a great deal. Having food grow at the schools or other fenced areas would be preferred and have the people come for "picking" days. I know that they had a garden at Willowbrook that was super.

---

educate residents on creating own gardens

---

LF 4-3 really would benefit from examples of specific incentives and rewards.

---

I grow a personal garden in front of Scott Simpson Builders on Shermer road. It is lovely and I share my crops with anyone that wants them.

---

Reach out to NBK grocery stores that may have suggestions, experience, and willingness to participate and even sponsor local food initiatives.

---

I have tried for years with no luck to get D30 to donate its food waste. Let's make this happen! TALK TO QUEST.

---

the urban gardening that happens in Northbrook is again, often "designer" gardening, which is a start. Show people how to keep their landscape waste on their property and establish gardens without purchasing a lot of "products" and dirt.

---

front yard gardens that take up lawn should be encouraged.

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**What other feedback do you have to share on this section?**

(Continued)

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Under LF2-2, you mention "Grow Northbrook" -- a concept of a central community food plot. This is an outstanding idea, both for food equity and for teaching young people about how to grow our own food. Were you aware of what our schools are doing in terms of food gardens -- for example, Dist 28's Junior High has a large vegetable garden it has created for educational purposes? You could talk with staff there who are responsible for it.

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# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Climate Health and Safety**



**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous statement? ("I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation")**

All I see is my tax dollars going down the tube for a program that makes people feel good? Does nothing to help noone.

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**

It is so wordy, it is hard to see any specific actions.

HS-5

emergency preparedness, increase education on health and safety

none

Access to healthcare

This section primarily calls for inserting climate based risks into a currently strong public safety commitment. Illinois has one of the best mutual aide systems in the country and Northbrook is next door to an excellent public safety training facility. Most of the recommendations will fit comfortably with existing plans and training.

Education about climate change risks

These concerns are paramount

Improving air quality for Northbrook since we're near major roads and expressways, in addition to other dangers stemming from climate change.

Health risks are foundational to climate risks and should be clearly communicated both as an action motivator and a risk management tool. There should be ample opportunity to collaborate with MABAS and other public safety training and planning entities to mitigate some of the risks.

The Village's commitment to provide adequate communication systems during extreme weather events, including heat and weather events.

Maintaining and improving a green canopy

climate impacts will be included in emergency response and health/safety planning

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**  
**(Continued)**

The emphasis on the vulnerable and those who do not speak English.

equity related-issues and attention to vulnerable populations, resilient home inspection

Again, I believe that all of this section is critical. I am not clear just how prepared Northbrook is in face of Climate Change events (like flooding or more frequent tornadic activity as we just had in Chicago June 20). Critical to have the Emergency Response Coordinator and HHS Dept prepared for chronic changes due to climate change such as very poor air quality (or extreme heat) . I think a focus on improving community connectedness and resilience is an important focus.

**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous strategy? (Strategy HS 1: Establish and expand public health communication campaigns to include climate change impacts.)**

Spread the propaganda through out the village for no benefit. The community is well educated on the climate. Whom are you targeting? Money going to waste!

**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous strategy? (Strategy HS 5: Address the air quality risks associated with climate change.)**

Blah Blah Blah

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Climate Health and Safety**

### Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?

I would like the village to implement regulations, especially on landscaping companies, on unhealthy emissions. I would also like noise levels of gas blowers and mowers to be regulated. Often, rakes can be used instead of blowers.

Restrict use of gas powered lawn equipment,

deter pollution sources such as leaf blowers and traffic congestion

We did not see anything that addresses invasive species. Illinois is losing resources to a regular influx of climate generated (like West Nile) and trade related (like Emerald Ash Borer) threats. For example, the Spotted Lantern Fly (currently in the mid-Atlantic states) is likely to migrate to this area within the planning time frame. It is a threat to trees, food crops and the use and enjoyment of property.

clean air days- add days when residents cut air pollution such as no gas power tool use, no fires, minimal gas driving

It may be obvious to some but it might improve the document to acknowledge the desirability of formal (but not complicated) intergovernmental agreements to identify resources like space for cooling centers and set out the conditions and expectations that apply. Regional groups should produce templates of such agreements if they are not already available.

Encourage residents to dedicate trees to loved ones throughout Northbrook.

Address indoor as well as outdoor air quality concerns and best practices

### TORNADOS

For the government to take more responsibility for the vulnerable populations, not just depending on neighbors to "notice" and take action because that can be very inconsistent.

Help elders learn how to eat more health (they tend to narrow their food choices to what is easily prepared and not know what the "good" choices are)

Establish a "community watch" similar to the neighborhood watch program for attending to these issues; may have to be an expanded CERT

### What other feedback do you have to share on this section?

Idling transportation vehicles add to increase of air pollution

community health challenges - runs, food choices, encourage walking

I mow my own lawn. I'm sure all of you on this board do not. What are you going to do take away my gas powered mower. Will the village buy me a new one? I'm a senior on a fixed income. Don't raise my taxes and stop spending money!

Once again, some of the foundational arguments for action seem based on national data rather than actual local conditions.

Illinois has more units of government than any other state. While the plan calls for cooperation with other jurisdictions it does not suggest anything to reduce this self inflicted administrative wound, nor does it suggest ways to overcome a recalcitrant player.

This section seems like a place to emphasize the benefits of distributed energy production. The risks highlighted are arguments for strategic geothermal investments.

### The impact of climate change on health is indisputable.

I found the Population Risk Sensitivity Chart likely to produce double counting.

I am not certain how these risk protection square with Flood Risk maps produced by FEMA. I also wonder how the current flood of record relates to potential future floods. Private investors typically want the lowest possible number when building and the highest when buying.

Perhaps there should be specific advocacy related to potential changes to the federal Flood Insurance program.

The Property Crime symbol on the population sensitivity chart appears to be a covid protocols compliant person.

It should be clear that the village through MABAs and other agreements will be obligated to render extra-jurisdictional assistance and demand for assistance is likely to grow.

It is hard to see how "cooling centers" solve the problem when the same population that is vulnerable also probably has transportation issues; seems like there needs to be some other solution.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Greenspace and Ecosystem**



**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous statement? ("I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation")**

Once again people who have the money and will are and already have done these things

### **What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**

Replace turf grass with deep rooted native plants that absorb carbon and stormwater. We need plant/soil experts doing site specific evaluations to educate home owners. We also need financial e.g. tax incentives, to absorb carbon-stormwater on-site. Increasing slope of landscapes as required by current rain-garden rules a waste of time and \$. Best to absorb with deep rooted plants and rich soil. Teaching home owner is critical. Sewer engineers need to be replaced with plant/soil experts who visit home owners.

GS 2-6

increase tree canopy, use native plants to replace turf, increase green areas

none

Open and Green space should be made a priority

Increase trees, pollinators, permeable land

Greenspace is good not only for the climate but for psychological health too.

Everything! Yes to biodiverse lawn space and helping our pollinators! I should have read this section before leaving comments on some of the previous sections. I strongly support all the aspects outlined in this section to protect our green space.

Increasing green spaces in NBK

Although Northbrook has greater tree coverage than when it was a farm community the benefits of further expansion of the canopy are obvious. At the same time trees can interfere with solar installations especially with older panels that are 100% impacted by partial shading. Property management approaches that eliminate lawn maintenance should be encouraged,

### **What aspects of this section are you most in support of? (Continued)**

"Requiring commercial development to..." and making better acknowledgement of the necessity for less concrete/more landscape and less pesticides, etc

Creating an "all things green plan", providing Village sponsored tree sale, planting trees along all Village owned right of way.

Green canopy in northbrook

Increasing tree canopy and repurposing lawn areas

REIMAGINING FRONT LAWNS, NATIVE PLANTINGS.

Shift away from lawns to growing natives/pollinator gardens, tree planting, making green spaces more accessible

all are good

Intrigued by green roof, green wall (that is something that could distinguish our village), lights outs, and restore vacant lots

Both the increase of the tree canopy as well as repurposing and reimaging lawn space, especially with an anticipated increase each year of droughts.

increase tree canopy, 5 yearly assessments of green space

**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous strategy? (Strategy GS 2: Increase the resilience and use of Native Species and Pollinator Restorations Areas with a targeted increase of 1.5% community wide land pollinator restoration coverage.)**

This does not go far enough. 1.5% increase will not help. It needs to be much greater.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Greenspace and Ecosystem**

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### Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?

Change focus from planting a few, slow growing trees to replacing turf grass with deep rooted prairie plants. Many residents don't want or need trees, or don't know how to maintain them. .... Turf grass requires too much poisonous pesticide, fertilizers. It also requires frequent mowing with carbon emitted tools or nuclear. Don't waste solar/wind on plants that need energy for maintenance. Promote prairie plants that don't need frequent cutting. Change Northbrook perspective to admire native plants, birds and other pollinators in healthy soil/landscape.

Teach home owners to avoid walking or covering landscape with frequent walking or use of heavy equipment, pipes, concrete platforms and underground water tanks that compress soil and restrict absorption of stormwater and carbon. We need more education, not trees.

Educate the public why pollinator gardens are important, educate re: light pollution effects on insects.

Perhaps a village sponsored native plant sale for residents at wholesale cost. All new development need have a greater amount of green space.

Northbrook should aggressively pursue purchasing Green Acres country club land and turn it into a park/ recreation area. This would help meet much of the canopy and land use needs outlined in this section and provide a valuable amenity for many generations. I helped the NBPD acquire the Annetsburger property in the late 1990's because I recognized the value of open space to our community. Green Acres is another fantastic opportunity that NB should be aggressively pursue.

I love the village's buckthorn removal program and rain garden program. I would love to see more programs in Northbrook willing to grant financial aid to create a greener yard or community area.

Vacant properties should be secured by eminent domain and converted to green spaces

The plan recognizes (GS 1-11) the need to "improve plans for responding to pest invasions in Phase 2. It should be Phase 1. The Spotted Lanternfly is a growing problem in the mid Atlantic states and can easily travel by laying eggs on vehicles. While Covid may have slowed this threat, that time is over and we should be getting ready now.

Why is action on neonicotinoids and persistent chemicals in Phase 2? Pollinators are under major stress now.

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### Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?

(Continued)

A goal of 2030 is way too long; get planting and requiring now. We not need more "plans to be developed, studies to be conducted, identifying of, conduct an assessment..." Goodness, we have the knowledge by the CAP, basic common sense, and driving around town! Get the trees planted and landscapes in place - save time and money and put it into action already. ALSO...where is the REQUIREMENT of home developers? The large homes take all the grass surface away and leave no space for trees/landscape! I have not read the whole CAP just yet, so maybe it's in there...in addition, the GS1-15 was supposedly in place years back but the Village/Public Works have not monitored the lack of trees being put back on home properties!!! A builder can take down 3-5 trees, or in my neighborhood - a whole lot line of 12 foot high native 'Techny' Arborvitae, and replace nothing! That's criminal in my opinion! Talk about loss of habitat, etc! C'mon Northbrook, stop the dilly-dallying and let's truly do something soon!

Allow dedications of trees and set annual tree planting goals

encourage green roofs and walls

Don't allow open land to be rezoned.

The Village should offer a kit for replacing lawn with natives. Free trees to any neighborhood gathering for a block party. Coordination with youth groups to help with planting/ maintenance of trees and natives, and more community support for restoration efforts in Forest Preserves in Northbrook.

Hold the utility companies more responsible for the maintenance of trees above their lines that could cause power outages;

provide a way for folks to map the pollinator gardens on private property, re-educate landscapers to guide people toward more sustainable landscaping, and identify ways they can make money to maintain them

Would like to see a more active stance and support of creating more pervious surfaces -- to reduce the area of hard surfaces, wherever possible. We have some large parking areas that are contribute to flooding, etc., and are more than we need. We need to replace with permeable materials and/or green spaces.

I would increase the goal of more trees. They add value, shade, clean air.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Greenspace and Ecosystem**

### What other feedback do you have to share on this section?

Teach home owners to use waste food as compost. Expand community gardens and school programs on plants, pollinators, soil health so kids know how to why it is critical to create and maintain a health plant community.

work with NBK Chamber to educate on these issues create a eco committee at each chamber member esp. AllState, Crate and Barrel, etc.

This is perhaps the singular most important aspect that is attainable. Reducing fossil fuel would also have a great impact but it harder to accomplish. Increasing green space is a matter of economy and how we choose to use our land.

These are such important steps for improving NB's climate footprint.

GS 4-8 is long overdue.

It's an important component of CAP, and I like these critical 21st century thoughts! Keep it up, now move on the ideas please.

identify sites within NBK that best lend themselves to strategies like tree canopy expansion and native species corridors, and work with property owners. Might a multiple-party native species corridor easement or MOU be feasible?

THIS IS TOO WEAK

The goals should be more ambitious - do more, and implement it sooner.

It would be helpful to engage Northbrook residents in re-imagining lawn space by having some "Demonstration Yards" for people to see what they can do with native plantings, drought resistant grasses, etc.. This is also true for swales or areas that get too much water.

I'd like to see partnerships with the largest land owners, which I assume are schools and the PD to reduce grass, increase deep rooted plants and trees.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Climate Economy**



Section 09  
Climate Economy  
CRA Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous statement? ("I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation")**

I don't agree with most of what you have proposed due to the high cost and low impact it will have on our community. Most in the village are doing what they are able to reduce our impact on the earth.

This is just a reason to spend money on these socialistic ideas and agenda.

As a senior on a fixed income Northbrook because of its tax base is affordable but with all these programs you will price me out of my home. Talk about non affordable housing. You will get the opposite effect.

### **What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**

Not a single one!!

Homeowners should be encouraged to buy electric lawnmowers. They are much cleaner and quiet and perfect for the mostly +/-1/4 acre lots that many homeowners own. Perhaps a tax subsidy or fee reduction can be arranged those homeowners that provide evidence of such a purchase.

Human beings develop patterns of being. I feel many times it goes along the line of ....Thought leads to intent that results in action. I fully support Northbrook leaning into the changes articulated in this document. Many of these changes will not be easy. They will be unwelcome to those that are comfortable with old patterns and/or those that have a vested interested to believe otherwise.

Recognize we are all part of the global ecosystem and it is essential to our wellbeing that we align our patterns of behavior with the health of our planet. As trustee's you have a wonderful opportunity to embrace this thought with both intent and action. I believe the biggest mistake you can make is to be timid and meandering. Be bold. Enact many of the goals in this plan with great intent. Error on the side of being doing to much rather than to little. Hire a village manager that is a conservationist; someone who can collaborate with the trustee's, the residents, and businesses for a more sustainable future! Be the change that you seek in the world!

### **What aspects of this section are you most in support of? (Continued)**

all

Creating sustainable green jobs.

Helping the community to understand the likely economic consequences of climate change here and around the world. This should anticipate that a more water secure region that may also experience more moderate initial impacts than other regions is likely to experience an increase in migration. within the planning time frame.

### **Affordable Housing**

Using incentives. However incentives should be available to all residents and businesses not just certain level incomes low or high and not restricted by location either.

Further encourage and recognize green businesses

Changing the way we think about the connection between climate and the economy.

Northbrook needs to develop transit-oriented, affordable housing (the Grainger Property would be a great location), and a more diverse housing stock, in general. Promoting small businesses and purchasing of goods and services from Northbrook vendors is important.

affordable housing, and exploring more population density (populations that can support each other-

To encourage jobs, business creation related to climate change initiatives, renewable energy, energy efficient building design/ construction and appliances. I also think CE-2 is critical and timely with the recent Affordable Housing Ordinance that was adopted Dec 8, 2020.

encouraging Green Businesses

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Climate Economy**

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**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous strategy? (Strategy CE 2: Increase workforce development for the climate economy.)**

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Money, Money Money. You will decrease new business from coming to Northbrook. It will stifle growth.

The business sector will figure this out, focus your resources (ie my tax dollars) on incentives and ways to reduce costs to residents and businesses in the area. I would also say that businesses should only get 25% unless they also live in Northbrook. These benefits should be afforded to those that live in Northbrook.

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**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous strategy? (Strategy CE 4: Financing The Village's climate action implementation.)**

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Business has been hard hit since covid and now you will be increasing cost.

No that's wrong. We need to grow as a community not stifle growth!

Find a way to not add a fee for once. Figure out a way to allow the applicant to save money while achieving the desired outcome. FEE + CODE + ZONING REQUIREMENT = basically no action because the status quo is the cheapest route.

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**Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?**

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I would like to see a section on these policies talking about whether or not these regulations will encourage competition or if it will hurt it.

I am curious if there is any way to partner with President Biden's federal emphasis on green jobs, rather than only creating them at a local level? Are there any federal funds that could help us develop this area?

Clarification more than omissions is the issue. For example, CE 1-3 needs examples of incentives. Are we talking permit priority, fee waivers, "at a boys," grants...? It should be more specific as to what is on the table. Should 6B tax incentives be restricted to sustainable businesses?

CE 2-2 might be better suited to a well maintained regional effort rather than a local electronic green jobs board. Too many such efforts lack sufficient commitment to be kept up to date and the job pool may not be sufficient to get noticed.

CE 2-3 is a good idea but is a complicated business with issues like materials storage that can be difficult to accommodate in Northbrook. This may be better as a program initiated by the Northwest Municipal Conference and spun off like SWANCC if successful.

CE 3-1 It is nice to see the Northbrook Chamber mentioned. They should be noticed more frequently in this plan.

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**Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?**

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(Continued)

(Response Continued)

CE 3-2 This should include hotels as infrastructure.

CE 4-1 is a good idea but it is unclear why 2 levels (40 & 80%) are mentioned and what would be the reason for preferring one to the other.

CE 4-2 Franchise fees and impacts will need to be a regional initiative as the traditional systems has (or had) provisions that worked against energy efficiency.

Allow recycling to take place in commercial locations such as shingle recycling, or anaerobic digestion projects within commercial areas or even at the residential level. Zoning is so restrictive these processes force it to be done out of the Village and even the count... basically increasing traffic and trucks and not allowing the generation of the material to be handled at or near its generation point.

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Develop or adopt and promote green business and green office guidelines

Zoning reform that will lead to more creative use of the existing housing and building stock and lead to changes in the built environment that will be more impactful in terms of preventing further climate change.

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increase/expand Green Awards, recruit community groups, leaders, streets to participate and record their efforts at climate action

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In the what you can do list: start a green business!

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Climate Economy**

### **What other feedback do you have to share on this section?**

In general I liked that there was a plan for the economy and I think that will help it succeed. I feel sometimes people get caught up with other aspects and ignore the economic portion which only ends up hurting the idea.

We cannot fix our problem without these initiatives.

again this is silo analysis without finding ways to help the residents or businesses.

Expand the green awards program

There needs to be leadership that can bring the different entities in the community (government and governmental bodies, businesses, schools, residents, workers and civic groups) together to all be working in the same direction. Without that, all the initiatives discussed in the CAP will have minimal success. I see this silo mentality in Northbrook as a major barrier to making meaningful change here in terms of climate change and in terms of making Northbrook a more welcoming and diverse community that addresses the needs and interests of all.

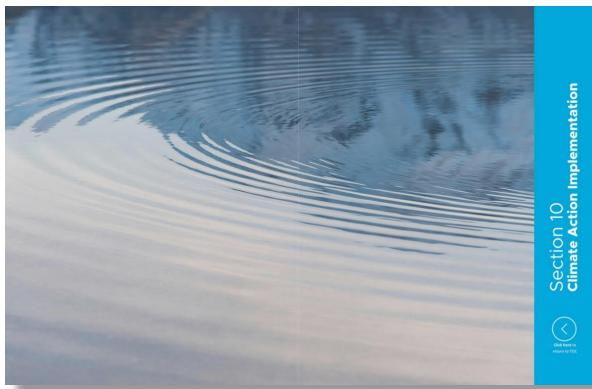
re-education/re-train gardeners in sustainable practices

1. Educate retailers that double wrapping in plastic bags should not be the 'norm'. It is madness to be given 12-14 plastic bags with \$50 of grocery shopping when those bags will pollute the environment for hundreds of years. Buy a piece of candy for \$1 and it will be plunged into a huge plastic bag before you can say "STOP!" More madness, more waste.

2. 'Introduce a 'plastic bag' levy - ensure that all retailers charge customers for every plastic bag that is given to them with their shopping. Most advanced western countries are charging for single use plastic bags or they are simply not available. Let's make 'BRING YOUR OWN SHOPPING BAG' the NEW NORMAL in NORTHBROOK!

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Implementation**



**Can you please share more about why you disagree with the previous statement? ("I agree with the intent and goals of this section and encourage the Village to proceed with implementation")**

This is a lot of money being wasted to try to solve a problem that doesn't exists.

Don't implement this. It will stifle community growth, hi cost/low impact.

In general, "Northbrook" i.e., the Village Board, and/or the governing body that rules over any one such initiative, is noted for glacial pace when it comes to truly implementation of any 21st Century ideal. This CAP seems to suggest the same, as more committees, reviews, studies, etc etc are noted here to occur before any true "action and change" does. As a resident of 20+ years, I cannot recall anything big that furthers environmentalism, recreational opportunity, sustainability practices, or green-minded behavior in a large community philosophy/way of life in all this time. Yet we have had how many "studies" and money spent in that direction...so sad and a true waste of time/resources/community morale. What does NB stand for? Let's do it already - stop the dilly-dallying talk and walk the walk, please. We're a highly-educated community yet act as if we're so afraid of ruffling feathers. Across this country, there are impressive community models of impactful 21st change. C'mon, Northbrook, get courageous, dive in and jump onboard!

THE EQC IS NOT THE ENTITY TO DO THIS. WE NEED A COMMITTEE WITH POWER AND A BROAD MEMBERSHIP.

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**

The first year is vital to implementation

not a one

**10 CLIMATE ACTION IMPLEMENTATION**

I wouldn't know where to start, but start somewhere, please!

I'm so grateful to live in a city that has a plan for helping reduce Climate change. Thank you for all your hard work.

**What aspects of this section are you most in support of?**  
(Continued)

It is desirably short and direct. This is a complicated issue and a long document. Most people will not be well informed on the subject until they are directly affected by climate driven problems. It recognizes the need for a collaborative approach.

Hmm...maybe that there is suggestion of grant monies and creative opportunity for garnering resources??? Stop the staff-expenditures and look to who is already present and the volunteers/talent pool that exists in this community. Excite us and we'll step forward!

Having the Village lead by example with its buildings and infrastructure. Increase water tax to replace pipes, allow free parking in metra lot to encourage public transit, promote electric vehicles and strive for electric village vehicles, promote green canopy, amend waste management contract to increase costs for waste and decrease costs for composting and recycling

Regular review of CAP implementation progress every 6 months makes more sense initially, and then yearly should suffice. Reviewers could include non-Village staff CAP team members and others, like Commission Chairs..

The plan actually being implemented. But your proposed method is wrong.

All

Reducing single passenger vehicle use. encouraging walk/bike

Communication with Northbrook residents and business owners is critical to the success of the CAP and its implementation. I saw that FB, Twitter and Instagram were ways the Village is thinking of getting information out to people, but that is not enough. The idea of a separate web page that is completely dedicated to Northbrook's CAP is a more effective way to reach people. More public Open Houses like the one just hosted, and other public spaces "demonstration sites" for CAP supported activities -- energy efficient ideas for homes and businesses, land use and lawn/garden practices to create healthy habitats, food will help spread the word. Any vehicles of communication, virtual & real, to engage Northbrook residents and businesses will be the keys to the success of CAP. Earth Day is a great day for getting out the word on CAP, but perhaps consider another day in the Fall, to amplify that Climate Change and taking care of our community is a year round venture.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Implementation**

### Are there actions that you would like to see the Village implement that are not addressed in this section?

What will each of the Village appointed commissions do to help implementation? Who will be in charge of making sure changes are made? How will this all happen?

No

I want to understand better how I can keep a pulse on our progress towards the plan outlined in this document. How will I know Northbrook is on track? Is there a website where I can monitor CAP progress?

Adding references to established models of subregional and regional collaborations will help. MABAS has been among the top rated emergency management partnerships in the country. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Northwest Municipal Conference are important forums and partners. The regional planning agencies should also be mentioned. Illinois has more units of government than any other state. The one you forget to include is likely to be the one that can screw up an initiative.

Will reread and reconsider this question.

Keeping paleBLUEdot engaged for 6-12 months would avoid CAP team traction being lost.

I am concerned that this plan will not be implemented.

Encourage bike or small electric car use for transport within the village

Facilitate a provisions van like a food truck to neighborhoods with staples. reduce one off trips to grocery stores and small buying via amazon or other vendors.

### What other feedback do you have to share on this section?

All aspects of community government, park district, schools, businesses need to be involved. How can everyone work together on this?

Good job

PLEASE START!

Funding should be based on user fees rather than property or sales tax wherever possible

This is a well written but daunting report for most residents. It needs a careful proofreading as there are cases of incomplete sentences and thoughts. Some charts are distracting like Tree Canopy Coverage. How does Oak Park make the 50th percentile with 38% coverage and Northbrook only the 38th percentile with 37% coverage in a region with hundreds of communities? It might be accurate, but I found it distracting.

Overall a good start.

### What other feedback do you have to share on this section?

Do something soon! Or another "glacial pace" example will be on the NB record.

The list of Village boards and commissions is a good in-house start to ensuring implementation, but how will the out-of-house CAP partners and others be kept engaged? A Village-wide implementation task force seems a better option. How have other village's approached this?

Nothing else matters if you don't get this part right.

As we talked at the open house using Design Thinking to formulate adoption solutions, change management and an aspirational vision will facilitate ownership by residents towards implementing the CAP. Currently residents are comfortable in their lives and this will mean changing habits and a level of disruption.

Reducing the number of vehicles that drop off/pick up from schools or single person vehicle use will decrease congestion and emissions. Congestion has also increased in the past year with more young families moving in to the area for the school districts with their mobility. It would be ideal to see comparisons with modern cities such as Seattle, Austin, San Francisco or countries like the Netherlands where the village design is around bike access. In a city where affluence/prestige is measured by the size and model/make of the car you drive vs environmental impact change could be resisted. With the rise in electric vehicle options, maybe the village can provide incentives for ownership.

I would also ask that you consider creating a standing Sustainability Commission to oversee the plan's implementation. I understand that current thinking is that the Environmental Quality Commission will handle this role. The EQC is an important part of the process. But it is not clear how they will be able to handle cross-institutional cooperation. The CAP included members from the Library, Park District, three School Districts, various Village Commissions and citizens. The CAP is meant to be a Village wide document. Does the EQC have the authority or reach to include all these groups? Could an intergovernmental group like the Economic Development Committee be used as a model to promote sustainability? I know that creating and staffing a new commission involves a lot of work. But I am not sure how effective the CAP will be if we don't have a community-wide implementation process.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix A—Long-Answer Responses **Implementation**

### What other feedback do you have to share on this section?

(Continued)

(response continued)

I understand that the Village has hired Tessa Murray as the new Sustainability Manager. Thank you for creating this new position. Tessa is a gifted person who will have her work cut out for her. For this reason, I ask that you consider having her report to the Village Manager. This is not a criticism or complaint about the Department of Planning Services. Michaela and her team have kept the CAPT moving forward and we are grateful for their work. It is more a realization the Sustainability Manager will have to authorize or undertake work with many different Village Departments and agencies. Isn't the Village Manager the person who oversees all departments including the Police and Fire Departments, Public Works, Planning Services and Communications? All of these departments are listed as project leaders of different parts of the plan. Without the direction of the Village Manager, can the Sustainability Manager corral all these groups? There will be a new Village Manager sometime this year. I know that it will take time for this new hire to get up to speed with all their responsibilities. But sustainability is one of the issues identified by the Board as most important to our community's well-being. I hope that the Village Manager will want to be an important part of all the processes outlined by the CAP.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix B - COMMISSION INPUT ON THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



### MEMORANDUM VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK

#### DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**TO:** RICH NAHRSTADT, VILLAGE MANAGER  
**FROM:** MICHAELA KOHLSTEDT, DIRECTOR DPS  
**DATE:** JULY 2, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** COMMISSION INPUT ON THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

On July 27, 2021 the Board of Trustees is scheduled to review the Climate Action Plan, drafted by a community planning team and environmental consultant. This document was posted in April 2021 and presented to Commissioners for review at meetings throughout May and June. Please consider the following notes on the Climate Action Plan provided by Northbrook Commissioners.

#### **1) 5/13/21 Architectural Control Commission**

- Commissioner Albrecht suggests including either minimum requirements or incentives for EV and Bike parking in item TL6-3 (parking minimums).
- Commissioner Menn made a motion to support all recommendations presented to the ACC, seconded by Commissioner Albrecht. On a voice vote the motion passed.

#### **2) 5/13/21 Senior Services Commission**

- In regards to TL2-1, Commissioner Lefkow mentioned that many use the \$5 credit per ride arrangement with cab companies, and a similar program with PACE would be useful.
- Commissioner Lefkow asked how the pandemic's rise in remote working will factor into our emissions projections.
- In regards to Climate Health and Safety, Commissioner Hazaray said Crestwood would like to arrange a specific plan with the Fire Department on how emergency procedures apply to their homes.
- Commissioner Hazaray proposed that Crestwood Place could be a large room for improvements in building energy emission reductions. Trustee Israel suggested a Comed and Nicor assessment.
- Commissioner Caldwell expressed concern with how vaccination roll-out made seniors feel left in the dark relating to planning and hopes this can be remedied for future emergency situations.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix B - COMMISSION INPUT ON THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

### 3) 5/19/21 Plan Commission

- For TL3-1, Commissioner Shwager identified a potential bike path location across the highway at Lee Rd to connect the Williamsburg neighborhood to downtown Northbrook.
- Commissioner Morgen expressed that TL6-1 (allow higher density in downtown/transit center) seems vague. Commissioner Sandler asked that TL6-1 should clarify its definition of transit center in relation to Northbrook, and wanted clarification about how many stories would be adequately considered higher density.
- Chairman Franklin spoke of her experience with LF1-6 on front yard vegetable gardens: she raised concern of unintended consequences such as lack of aesthetic appeal and increased wildlife. Chairman Franklin said the CAP should achieve a balance between meeting climate goals and sustaining property values with the familiar look of Northbrook.
- Commissioner Sandler expressed support and confidence in the Plan Commission achieving LF2-3, allowing community gardens on vacant land in all zoning districts except industrial. He clarified this should establish a limit to its proximity to other development and suggested a special-use permit for community gardens.
- Commissioner Elisco recommended GS1 (increasing tree coverage and diversity) should include Village-set guidelines on planting the right tree in the right place with consideration for solar readiness. He added a desire to extend the parkway cost-sharing program to private property trees.
- Commissioner Sandler asked how the CAP fits into, or possibly contradicts, the comprehensive plan. Commssioner Morgen echoed this concern, stating that actions under TL6 (Advancing low-carbon land use policies) conflict with the comprehensive plan. Commissioner Elisco explained these would be executed by modifying our current zoning ordinances, and Michaela added the comprehensive plan is due for an update in the future.
- Commissioners Torf and DeBartolo questioned the feasibility of achieving the goals of the CAP. Commissioner Sandler added to this that some issues cannot be addressed on the municipal level, using the example of the state raising sticker costs of EVs. He concluded that the Plan Commission is willing to take each of these actions one at a time but is concerned by potential costs of implementation.

### 4) 5/25/21 Industrial and Commercial Development Commission

- Commissioners requested a social media campaign promoting the reopening of local businesses.
- Commissioner Garris would like to see a refined list of top-priority actions and suggested one-pagers for distribution that are tailored to different community groups such as businesses.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix B - COMMISSION INPUT ON THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- Commissioner Rushkewicz noted that Northbrook is a leader in our region on the issue of climate change and would like to see collaboration moving forward so that the actions taken in Northbrook could be applicable to Wintrust Bank locations elsewhere as well.

### 5) 6/3/21 Community Relations Commission

- Commissioner Doughty suggested that the CRC can provide help with outreach and educational initiatives related to the CAP.

### 6) 6/30/21 Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission

- On the topic of increasing Northbrook's sidewalk and bike path connectivity, Commissioner Buehler raised concerns that coordination with Forest Preserves of Cook County, CDOT, and IDOT is required for renovation of many streets in Northbrook.
- Commissioner Hofschild identified Sunset Ridge Rd. as a potential site for bike access improvements.
- The Commission noted that several residents have approached their group over the years to request safer bicycle access to Somme Woods while biking east on Dundee.
- Commissioner Buehler expressed support for language in TL 6-3 that would include bike parking minimum requirements in the changes to zoning code that would reduce car parking minimum requirements.
- For TL 3-1 seeking to identify new locations for bike facilities, Commissioner Hofschild suggested Willow Festival near Potbelly's. Commissioner O'Connell added Wood Oaks near Culvers and referenced an instance in which he saw a family park all of their bicycles in a car parking space.
- Commissioner Hofschild recommended collaborating with the library to promote bicycle safety education.
- Commissioner Buehler hopes this Plan will help Northbrook make regional partnerships and engage our neighboring communities in progress.

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix C – ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

### 1. Rodney Burton (Public comment received via email 5/2/2021)

#### General Comments:

Northbrook has two unique features that I do not feel were adequately treated in the Draft.

First, Northbrook is not a "seaside town" but does lie less than 5 miles from Lake Michigan, the 4th largest fresh water lake in the world. The effect of this fortunate situation on moderating Northbrook's climate extremes was not adequately addressed in the draft, as there was a great deal of information on Ames, IA but not on Northbrook.

Second, nuclear power was given inadequate treatment. Illinois is unique in that only 23% of its electric power comes from fossil fuel [nuclear, 66%; coal, 14%; renewables, 11%; and natural gas, 9%].

The percentage numbers that apply to Northbrook should be in the draft.

#### Specific Comments:

A major issue to be addressed, or at least mentioned, is the stability of the nuclear power numbers. Nuclear plants in Illinois are in the process of being decommissioned, which is going to drive the fossil fuel percentage higher. If that happens, the goal of 50% electric vehicles will not look very attractive.

Rather than stating a goal of 50% electric vehicles, the goal should be to adopt the best technology available to reduce CO2 emissions. This might be electric, or it might be a hybrid system using electric and natural gas, or something else.

The role of the "Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' Greenest Region Compact" needs to be expanded to include political action. As an example, closing of more nuclear power stations will make Northbrook's CO2 goals impossible to achieve, suggesting that support needs to be extended to this area in the state legislature.

The numbers for "Northbrook's Future Climate" in the Executive Summary need a major review as they are excessively pessimistic. Satellite global temperature measurements since 1979 show a temperature rise of 0.6 degrees C in 42 years [<http://www.drroyspencer.com/latest-global-temperatures/>].

Extrapolating 29 more years to 2050 predicts an additional rise on only 0.4 C, or 0.7 degrees F. The rise in the Draft of "4-6 F" is scary but not supportable. Data over the last 100 years (1918-2018) for "All US Historical Climatology Network Stations" shows that the number of days above 90 F is steadily decreasing, from 13% in 1918 to 8% in 2018. For Northbrook, days above 90 F are "rare," due in part to Lake Michigan. The statement of "20-25 more days...over 95 F" is probably not supportable. Similarly, the claims for 70% more A/C need review.

#### Final Comment

The Northbrook Climate Action Plan needs to be carefully examined for virtue signaling projects, which should be weeded out so that taxpayer dollars can be spent in the most effective way.

Sincerely,

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix C – ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

Dr. Rodney Burton, Northbrook resident, 3648 Radcliffe Drive

Professor Emeritus, Department of Aerospace Engineering,

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Vice President for Research, CU Aerospace LLC,

Champaign, IL

; 217-621-2076

I have been working on clear air quality since 1970, and have lectured on Climate Change."

### **2. G Angelo (Public comment received at Architectural Control Commission meeting 5/13/2021)**

"What are there regulations that new construction must adhere to when replacing a smaller structure or increasing the non-permeable area of the property? Are dry well required, and what is the capacity they must they have? I support installing and yearly renting enclosed bike lockers, as people would be more likely to bike to the train station if their bike was protected from weather and theft."

### **3. Adele Sturgis (Public comment received to Plan Commission 5/17/2021)**

"I have always respected scientific truth and logic above pie-in-the-sky myths. I would like to suggest that the Draft Final Climate Action Plan should be renamed "Let's Pretend Together: A Community's Plan to Justify Making Itself Less Affordable Under the Pretense of Environmental Sensitivity." This Plan will be used to justify further urbanization of Northbrook, taxpayer handouts to developers, and making Northbrook an even less affordable place to live, all of which are in line with the community's increasingly elitist values. After all, values signalling has become this community's substitute for holding down various costs critical to affordability. It's much easier to justify the Draft Final Climate Action Plan if that Plan, the community, and the Board of Trustees fail to attach a price tags to implementation, so I encourage you before endorsing it to consider the dollars-and-cents of what implementing this plan would cost taxpayers, as well as considering whether or not the Plan could possibly produce the purported benefits implementation.

A reality check might be a good place to start. Planet Earth is in big trouble, very near or already past a number of critical environmental tipping points known as climate change. This is apparent to all but the strain of fact-resistant human beings. Future generations do not deserve the mess they are inheriting. I personally believe that we are in a "too little and too late" situation to effectively reverse the environmental damages already set in motion given human nature. In all likelihood, elected and appointed officials believing that anything the tiny community of Northbrook might legislate will change the big picture is delusional. Believing that residents and businesses will voluntarily renounce their current and preferred consumption habits for the future good of the planet is even more delusional. As long as people with means can afford what they want, they're not going to deprive themselves of anything much in the long term for the greater good of others. Self interest drives the human species,

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix C – ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

and self indulgence drives the well-to-do. Given a choice, most people in Northbrook would choose to write larger checks to government and developers rather than inhibit their environmentally insensitive consumption habits. Consuming as much "stuff" as possible, regardless of environmental consequences (especially where it's too far away to see) is the hallmark of the well-to-do and the outward manifestation of their status in society.

Village-hired consultants for downtown redevelopment have described the nature of the next generation of Northbrook residents. They want new, bigger, and better, and lots of it, but at a lower cost, within their budget or beyond it. They want the same things previous generations of Northbrook residents wanted in their community: educational and recreational opportunities for their families in a safe, stable, attractive community with excellent government services, high-end shopping opportunities, and easy transportation access. Northbrook is such a place as long as one can afford its home prices and increasing tax burdens. If one cannot manage those costs within their personal budget, progressives demand that other taxpayers (particularly those in affordable "teardown" homes selectively subject to a new \$10,000 demolition fee) must be forced to provide financial support to those who cannot afford to live here within their own given means. Former Trustee Jim Karagianis said it best when he stated that the best thing Northbrook could do to keep Northbrook "affordable" was to keep its taxes as low as possible, but Village government has been busy handing out tax incentives to developers and raising fees, and is now preparing to further raise development costs in the name of environmental sustainability. If implementation of suggested policies and practices makes Northbrook even less affordable, then I guess the "haves" will need to shell out more tax dollars for those with less, and those who can barely afford the homes within their present means should prepare to be pushed out by higher taxes, making way for new residents who are the recipients of local government largess. It's a fabulous plan. It ignores the concept of people living within the limitations of their personal finances, and it ignores the fact that people who want to live on top of one another in highly urbanized environments could buy homes in the city instead of the suburbs, or live in a rural area instead of a suburb if they want the space to grow and preserve their own food, raise chickens, etc. It is the height of arrogance and entitlement to demand that an established suburb needs wholesale re-ordering because Mr. & Mrs. Millennial has moved there. If they didn't like the community where they bought their home, perhaps they should be the ones to move rather than trying to change what other people obviously moved here to enjoy.

Oddly, it appears that Village government may be failing to connect the dots between its policies and practices and the affordability of this community versus what is being suggested in the Final Draft Climate Action Plan. Please take a critical look at what this Draft Climate Action Plan is suggesting and the financial implications of its recommendations for both government and individual property owners. The selection of just four categories (Transportation and Land Use, Local Food, Greenspace, and Climate Economy) as the only categories relevant to the Plan Commission as the identified leader for the goal is a problem in and of itself.

### Transportation and Land Use

# Community Draft CAP Plan Review Summary

## Appendix C – ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

### Strategy TL3: Increase walk / bike transportation by 50% and expand discretionary walk / bike infrastructure by 2030.

Is there some coercive measure paleBLUEdot would like to suggest to FORCE Northbrook residents to walk and bike to their destinations instead of driving?

I served on both the Bicycle Task Force for many years and one of the downtown task forces (1997 - 2004) and have lived within 6 blocks of the downtown for 7 decades. This community has hired consultant after consultant to produce the same findings and the same recommendations, and paleBLUEdot is just another along the way. There is nothing new here, so what is there to discuss? Pre-pandemic, pedestrian activity outside of central Northbrook, other than dog-walking, has never seemed commonplace, which would seem to indicate that walking is neither a preferred activity of most homeowners or much of a factor in the selection of their home. It's anyone's guess how relaxation or elimination of Covid restrictions will change behaviors in the long term, but it's unlikely that large numbers of Northbrook residents are suddenly going to start walking miles to do their shopping or dine out. Our residents like walking so much that they're upset if they can't get a parking space right outside of the business they're going into; our downtown doesn't have a parking problem -- it just doesn't have enough parking spaces by the front door to suit our residents supposedly into health and fitness. With at least temporary increases in pedestrian activity during the pandemic, is there any evidence at all -- such as a verifiable increase in the number of pedestrian accidents -- which indicate that current pedestrian infrastructure is demonstrably unsafe and in need of improvement? Have any neighborhoods come to the Village and requested sidewalk installation at cost to their properties? Is there some factor which paleBLUEdot or the Village can site which indicates that people WANT to walk more? Should we round people up and force march them around their neighborhoods for their own good? What's the plan to increase pedestrian activity?

As for increasing bicycling activity, Village government-supported funding of bicycling transportation improvements is at an all-time high. While I think many people have decided to get out on their bicycles during the pandemic with its more limited choices of recreation and fitness activities, once again it's anybody's guess what bicycling activity will be like post-pandemic. Motor fuel taxes which drivers pay support the maintenance of our roads, but bicyclists as bicyclists pay no specific taxes or fees of any kind earmarked for the maintenance of either roadways or bicycle paths. To the contrary, it seems our bicyclists who are supposed to know the rules of the road need guidance in the form of chevron stencils painted on the streets to know where they're supposed to be operating their bicycles in the lane of travel, although we also post signs advising bicyclists that they can use the full lane. I don't believe that our Police Department ever tickets any bicyclist for violating the rules of the road that motorists would be ticketed for, which is a danger to bicyclists themselves, motorists, and pedestrians. The Bicycle Task Force refused to support any helmet law law for years, although it did eventually support a requirement for children. Bicycle rack requirements for businesses have been on the Village's books for years already, but it's never been clear where the space for bicycle racks is supposed to come from, particularly in the downtown where outdoor dining, pedestrian activity, landscaping, lighting, street

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furniture, and bicycle parking are supposed to safely occupy limited public space at the same time. If all past and present Village support of bicycling isn't enough, just what other concrete efforts and actions does paleBLUEdot think the Village should take? Can people be hypnotized to get on their bikes instead of in their cars, and would they be more safe in doing so?

paleBLUEdot and this Final Draft have conveniently failed to even mention the stormwater management consequences of expansions of pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure. Government conveniently exempts itself from providing additional detention when constructs and expands publicly-owned impervious surfaces used for motor vehicle and bicycle transportation, pedestrian activity, and parking (aka, "complete streets"). The cumulative consequences of increasing impervious surfaces without providing corresponding additional detention facilities, particularly where storm sewer infrastructure were designed for much less intense levels of development, are increased flood risks to all properties in the area. When a property floods as a consequence of both private and public expansions of impervious coverage which are not served by adequate storm sewers or detention facilities, private property owners -- not local government which permitted such expansions -- are the people who suffer the losses floods produce, losses of life, health, safety, and property damage. The premise of the Climate Action Plan is that communities need to take steps to enable our community to withstand the local effects of climate change, one of the most prominent changes being the INCREASED RISK OF FLOODING DUE TO MORE FREQUENT STORMS OF INCREASED INTENSITY. Intelligent people can connect the dots. If a community widens its streets and installs more sidewalks and bicycle paths without providing additional detention at the same time storm events are increasing in frequency and intensity, that community will suffer more flood damages, the antithesis of "sustainability." When Village government additionally continues to issue infill redevelopment permits for homes with increased impervious coverages and little or no additional public or private detention, Village government is placing selected people at risk of flooding while failing to take any responsibility for their actions.

### Strategy TL6: Advance low-carbon land use policy.

\*\*TL6-2: Use regulatory and voluntary tools to promote affordable and accessible housing development along existing and planned high capacity transit lines, frequent transit routes and in opportunity areas identified by Northbrook Development and Planning.

Let's not leave out mention of the Village's new coercive, punitive \$10,000 demolition fee selectively applied to all teardown properties as a great new "tool" to promote "affordable and accessible housing development along existing and planned high capacity transit lines, frequent transit routes and in opportunity areas identified by Northbrook Development and Planning." Millennials are unwilling to accept smaller, older, more affordable homes when they can afford something new, larger with LUXURIOUS, with or without the help of local government. Every unit of government wants to increase its property tax income from any and every property within its boundaries; rising health care costs and generous pensions unparalleled in the private sector don't come cheap. To make smaller, older, less expensive single family homes go away is to increase government property tax revenues, and if "affordable" single family homes are eliminated and multi-family units become the only "affordable" choice, so be it.. Well-to-do millenials get what they want, local units of government each increase their

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tax revenues, those with a sense of entitlement but not the means get "affordable" homes they want, and the only people who will suffer any real damage from the policy without a choice are the owners of "teardown" properties who take a \$10,000 financial hit. To make "affordable housing" affordable to people lacking the necessary financial means, while at the same time telling themselves and the public that taxpayers are not involved in funding "affordable" housing, staff and local officials have decided that it is exclusive financial responsibility of just a few lucky owners of "teardown" properties to lose \$10,000 of property value for the benefit of unnamed, underfunded future residents of "affordable" housing. The last time I checked, every owner of a teardown property was a taxpayer, so some taxpayers will definitely be financially harmed by the new Village policy -- they just can't fight back individually or as a group, which works well for local government. If there had been a perception of actual majority acceptance of general local public fiscal responsibility to ensure more units of more affordable housing, the *entire tax base*, not just teardown property owners, would have been targeted and involved in the finance of affordable housing. Everyone who supported this scheme should be ashamed of themselves and support a reversal of a highly selective, highly punitive demolition tax, but I doubt that it will happen.

*\*\*TL6-3: Reconsider Village parking requirements and establish revisions which support the goals of this plan such as reducing overall parking requirements, establishing parking maximums, and elimination or reduction of parking minimums. Particular focus should be given to the Transit Oriented Development areas within a 3/4 mile radius of train station and transit stops.*

Coupled with Strategy TL3 and #4 (TL6-2) and #5 (TL6-3) above, the combination is a blueprint to smooth the way for affordable housing approval at the Grainger site without utilizing any of the property for badly needed additional detention in the Illinois Road watershed area. It was appropriate for the Village to purchase the Grainger property to preserve and study its highest and best use potentials. However, while this Village claims to be interested in and committed to sustainability, when put to the test of whether protecting existing homes from increased flood risk due to more frequent and intense storms vs. affordable housing, our previous Board of Trustees has shown little to no interest in providing in new detention on a portion of the Grainger site which could significantly improve flood risk protection for a number of homes on both sides of the railroad tracks. When officials make choices to allow and encourage infill single family redevelopment with expansions of impervious coverage and little or no new private or public detention when they know stormwater infrastructure is inadequate, Village government is even more responsible for increased flood risk to downstream properties than climate change we can't control. Providing additional detention on less than 2 acres of the Grainger site is an action within the control of this Village to reduce the life, health, safety, and financial risks to a number of homeowners, but in truth their commitment to reducing flood risks is waning, not growing. I do not speak for the Stormwater Commission, but I want you to know that our more recent flood events produced more and more complaints about flooding, including properties taking on water in the main levels of their homes, not just their basements, and it's all over town. The problem is just not a sexy progressive issue, but it's very real and very damaging when it happens to someone's home and someone's life. If paleBLUEdot knew anything about this town, it would know that stormwater management is a community-wide problem we've been working on for 30 years. It's a problem that

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has continued to grow -- not shrink -- because of permitted single-family infill redevelopment concentrated in particular neighborhoods, such as those of the Illinois Road watershed which drains toward the Grainger property; old, undersized, increasingly inadequate stormwater infrastructure; too little detention; few or no effective and/or affordable traditional or green stormwater infrastructure options available due lack of available public or private land and / or lack of funding; and a lack of political will to more aggressively address growing stormwater management problems, despite climate change. I am proud of the stormwater mitigation this Village has accomplished over the past 30 years, but how serious is Northbrook's current commitment to address and mitigate climate change if it blows off one of its best chances to do so in one of its most vulnerable, flood-prone watersheds?

*\*\*TL6-5: Allow the construction of accessory dwelling units to increase rental opportunities in both established neighborhoods and new development.*"

Northbrook needs to DISCOURAGE additional impervious coverage of lots, not encourage and promote higher levels of impervious coverage on lots. This isn't rocket science. Not only does it undermine responsible stormwater management in the face of developing climate change, but it also undermines the reasons most families are here in the first place -- single family homes on single family lots which support property value stability and growth. If this community wishes to allow duplexes under exactly the same current development restrictions for single-family properties, there would be nothing wrong with that. There appears to be a duplex unit at the corner of First Street and Center Avenue, a stone's throw from Village Hall, with R-8 zoning unique in a block of R-5 homes and the Civic building, and the world has not collapsed. Duplex development no larger than single family zoning permits would be a far better option than additional accessory units on single family properties.

*Strategy LF1: Increase production of local food, particularly serving low income and food insecure individuals.*

I'm pretty sure that there are very few, if any, "low income, food insecure" individuals living in single-family homes who are bumping up against any local restrictions impairing their ability to plant gardens if they so desire. We allow front-yard gardens, remember? If there aren't too many trees that shade the garden and the clay soil doesn't make planting a garden pointless and the ground isn't so constantly so wet that no one should walk on it, what's stopping anyone from gardening on their property. And if we're talking about backyard chickens, most of us didn't choose the suburbs to live next to a barnyard.

*Strategy GS1: Increase tree cover and diversity.*

Did anyone notice that the Cook County Forest Preserve clearcut 21 acres of trees next to the main Post Office without any protest from the Village? If trees within the Village limits are so important, why was there silence?

I have suggested multiple times that the Village plant trees and landscape its west commuter parking lot the way they would make any developer landscape their parking lot, but you will notice that the Village is much better at telling people what to do than practicing what it preaches.

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Have you noticed that it's a struggle for the Village to keep new trees appropriately watered when they're being established, and once they're grown we struggle to find the funds to properly maintain them, particularly the nuisance species of trees like silver maples and ash trees along our parkways?

Are you aware that the cost of constructing rain gardens to collect stormwater runoff is almost 4 times the cost of Northbrook's most expensive stormwater management project to date in terms of storage per gallon. Maintenance of rain gardens can be problematic, and new owners may not want to be bothered. There is no staff time or funding available to monitor proper maintenance of rain gardens. This Village has no appropriate standards for the construction of rain gardens -- no requirements for appropriate sizing or location, not even a percolation test requirement.

*Strategy GS4: Reduce heat island effect through Village-wide impervious surface reduction of 2% by 2030 and 5% by 2040*

Green roofs have many benefits, but the initial costs are much higher than traditional roofs, and ongoing maintenance is a concern. Is paleBLUEdot going to help with those costs, or is this another increased expense for taxpayers?

Thank you for your consideration of these comments intended for distribution to Plan Commission members."

### 4. Dan Lloyd (Public comment received at CAP Open House on 6/16/2021)

I applaud Northbrook's Climate Action Plan. It's an ambitious plan that offers enough strategies so that everyone in the Village can get involved.

As the plan unfolds and concrete action steps are put in place, many groups and individuals will need to participate. Groups like GoGreen Northbrook, local churches who understand that the climate and care for our planet are religious issues, high school environmental clubs and elementary schools, and even clubs like Rotary and the local Garden club should be enlisted to implement the plan and spread the word about what is being accomplished.

I'm disappointed that the plan does not include a specific section about plastic bags. Plastic bags are a worldwide problem and we can do something right here in Northbrook to eliminate a large portion of those bags by enlisting the support of local grocery stores. Using the influence of village officials working with the groups listed above, there is a good chance we could decrease the use of plastic grocery bags by a substantial amount and that could be easily verified.

Electric cars are the best way to eliminate a big portion of our CO2 problem. Electric cars are becoming more feasible as mileage per charge increases. People in Northbrook need to see what is available to them and need to be educated about the positive attributes of owning an electric car. I suggest that we organize an Electric Car Fair to be held on the Village Green. Invite auto dealers throughout the area to display their electric vehicles. Besides the car dealers, invite businesses that provide charging stations to

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also display their products. Properly promoted, an Electric Car Fair can draw many residents and sway many to make their next car purchase an electric one.

Solar power is key to reducing our harmful energy sources. I'd like to see money spent on solarizing all municipal buildings including the public library, village hall, police and fire department buildings, park district facilities, and other buildings that serve the entire community. Next, I'd like to see nonprofit organizations like the churches, synagogues, the mosque, schools, and social service agencies receive grants to enable these organizations to solarize the buildings. That can be done by fundraising and imposing a minimal tax.

Finally, for the plan to gain momentum and succeed in the long run, an information network needs to be put in place. Fewer residents are reading newspapers. The Northbrook Tower stopped publishing its paper over a year ago. Hook the effort of all the people who will be working to make the Northbrook Climate Action Plan a reality with an information network. Keep village residents aware of the progress that will be made.

The Northbrook Climate Action Plan is an ambitious plan, but times like we live in now require just that. The world has run out of time. The time to take action is now.

### 5. Laurie Leibowitz (Public comment received via email 6/17/2021)

"The Northbrook Garden Club commends the hard work, careful analysis and creative thinking that went into developing the Northbrook CAP. In that spirit, our Sustainable Gardening Committee is making suggestions, which we hope will make the plan even better. We look forward to working with the Village and contributing our efforts to support the Plan's implementation.

#### Section 02 Transportation and Land Use

Strategy TL7: Reduce Village wide off-road and lawn equipment annual emissions.

Comment 1: Could the Village or Park District work with area lawn equipment vendors to provide discounts and trade-ins on qualifying equipment?

#### Section 03 Buildings and Energy

Strategy BE 6-5 Create residential efficiency challenge

Comment 2: As part of a residential energy challenge it is recommended we encourage the inclusion of landscaping and siting strategies to reduce the need for energy use for heating and cooling.

Strategy BE 9-2 Establish a Green Building Resource Center

Comment 3: Include support on transitioning to electric/battery lawn equipment and training on landscaping and siting strategies to reduce energy use for heating and cooling.

#### Section 04 Waste Management

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### WM1-1 Phase out single use products

Comment 4: Identify other areas with intensive single use products, especially non-recyclable plastic. For example, could gardeners work with area plant suppliers to begin supplying plants in recyclable material or sponsoring recycling programs for plastic pots?

### Section 05 Water and Wastewater

#### Strategy WW2 Mitigate projected increased flood hazards

##### WW2-2

Comment 5: Once flood risk areas are identified, especially in areas with vulnerable populations, is it possible to write grants or develop other funding mechanisms wherever possible to expand the Village's ability to mitigate flood risk?

### Section 08 Greenspace and Ecosystem Health

#### Strategy GS 1: Increase Tree Cover and Diversity

Comment 6: While the goal of increasing tree cover is important, we would like to see the plan include follow-up care for newly planted trees such as watering and pruning to ensure their health and promote longevity.

#### Strategy GS2 Increase land pollinator restoration coverage

Comment 7: We recommend targeting specific areas for invasive species control and scheduling regular return to those areas since remediation takes ongoing monitoring and continual removal of stubborn invasive species. Once invasive species are removed it is important to immediately implement a plan to remediate soil if needed and seed or plant natives appropriate to the habitat.

Comment 8: Would the Village consider trying to increase the percentage of native plants more than 1.5%? Programs to educate and incentivize residents to decrease lawn and non-native plantings and replace them with pollinator friendly native plantings would complement the goals in GS1 regarding tree coverage. Woodland and savanna native plants provide an understory that complement and in many cases evolved to live under trees. Planting cover crops or sedges to replace grass might be tried with residents willing to partner with the village, perhaps on parkways.

#### Strategy GS3: Reduce lawn space.

Comment 9: We encourage the development of a baseline and the setting of a specific lawn space reduction goal so progress can be measured in this important area."